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KENNETH APPLEBY/ FOR METRO

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Robotics event rolls into U of C
metroNEWS

Hoffman rebuts accusations

PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS

Health minister says former AHS boss was the one pushing agenda

Jeremy Simes
Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Calgary

Health Minister Sarah Hoffman is defending her government's interventions at Alberta Health Services after its former CEO described those actions as political interference in a scathing resignation letter.

Vickie Kaminski resigned last November as CEO of AHS and, according to reports by CBC News — which obtained her resignation letter — said in her letter that "many examples" of heavy-handedness from the government were putting her professional reputation in jeopardy.

"Some of the examples transcend both the former government and the newly-elected government of Alberta," the CBC reported. "More recently however, many (examples of political interference) are simply rooted in an ideology of the new government that does not allow AHS to do what needs to be, and should be done."

Hoffman said Wednesday the government sets health policy and, at times, Kaminski seemed to push an agenda more in line with the previous PC government than the NDP.

"It felt like that could have been the case from time to time," she said.

Mayor Naheed Nenshi also took issue with Kaminski's version of events, regarding her claims the government meddled in an already-made decision to centralize Calgary's EMS dispatch system.

Nenshi said he was forced to go to Hoffman directly after Kaminski unilaterally proceeded with the ambulance takeover, despite directions from Hoffman to hear Calgary's concerns.

"Minister Hoffman's putting to stop these games is not 'political interference,'" Nenshi said. "It's proper governance of Alberta's largest expense."

In the letter, Kaminski also complained she was directed by Deputy Health Minister Carl Amrhein to communicate in "voice mode" to ensure there was no paper trail that could be obtained through freedom of information.

Hoffman said she doesn't believe that was his intent.

Wildrose leader Brian Jean said Kaminski's letter is a clear indication the government isn't respecting AHS's independent status.

"This NDP government is interfering politically and as we know, political interference causes tremendous problems," he said.

In a statement, AHS board chair Linda Hughes said Kaminski's letter "looks backwards and is not reflective of the present day."

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Snowden says Panama Papers case highlights 'role of the whistleblower in free society.' **Canada**

Sisters use art to uncover past

EXHIBIT

Native duo based project on dad's tribe

Stephanie Joe
For Metro | Calgary

Growing up in an urban environment, sister artists use their craft to explore the culture from which they were removed.

Richelle and Brittney Bear Hat grew up off the reserve and were often the only native girls in their Calgary schools.

"There's that dynamic like you are native but you're not surrounded by the culture, so it makes you feel like you're an outsider," said Richelle.

They both graduated from Alberta College of Art and Design (ACAD) in 2011 — Richelle with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in drawing and Brittney in painting with an interest in collage and drawing.

Even though they hadn't planned on it when they went to art school, it was a natural next step for the pair to collaborate on a project.

"There's always that doubt that, yes, we're both artists, but she's also my sister, so it's like, are we going to work well together?" said Richelle.

"Surprisingly, it was very smooth," said Brittney. "We're both very open to each other's practices, thoughts and ideas."

The girls based their exhibit on their father's tribe: the Blueberry River First Nation. It's where they get their Cree heritage from, though legally they're registered with the Siksika Nation, a Blackfoot tribe, said Brittney.

"Their culture is so much different from the Blackfoot culture," she said. "It was nice because it was like we found another part of ourselves there.

"We haven't been in touch with it until we got older, and a lot of that is coming out in our work. As young people, it is our job to get to know our past and our culture."

Richelle said that she hopes people will feel the sincerity and pride the sisters feel in their native identity when they experience the exhibit.

> **I just want people to share the same experience and maybe tell us their stories, too.**
> Brittney Bear

"It's rare that you hear something positive about a native or native people in an urban landscape," said Richelle. "I think it's important to showcase the good things."

Brittney believes that what their exhibit represents doesn't belong to native people alone.

"It's a shared thing, because we come from the same land," she said. "I just want people to share the same experience and maybe tell us their stories, too."

The exhibit is showcased at the Art Gallery of Alberta in Edmonton until June.

The sisters will talk about their art at ACAD on Thursday.

This is the first time these sisters have worked on a project together, even though Richelle, right, and Brittney Bear Hat graduated from ACAD at the same time.
JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

Richelle and Brittney Bear Hat's exhibit, Little Cree Women (Sisters, Secrets and Stories), will be showcased at AGA until June.
COURTESY M.N. HUTCHINSON

FASHION

Woman fired for saying 'fat' online gets apology

A plus-size women's clothing store has apologized to an employee after it fired her for using "fat" to describe customers.

Connie Levitsky of Edmonton used the word on her Facebook page last week when updating her job status as a new sales associate with Addition Elle.

Levitsky wrote: "Conquering the world, one well-dressed fat lady at a time."

She said a store manager called her Friday to tell her that using "fat" on Facebook was inappropriate, so she deleted the post. And she thought that was the end of it.

But when she showed up for her shift Tuesday at the company's West Edmonton Mall location, she was fired. Levitsky said a district manager told her that the company couldn't be associated with "fat" and that she considered it a swear word.

Levitsky, a 24-year-old university student, said she was shocked, hurt and angry. And when she got home, she took to Facebook to vent.

She wrote that it took years for her to accept her plus-size body and she prefers to use "fat" instead of store-accepted euphemisms such as "curvy."

"As part of the body-positivity movement, I feel that if companies … are still censoring the word fat, then we are never going to get anywhere," she wrote.

"This is one less store I can shop at, not because their clothes don't fit me, but because what they don't stand for doesn't."

Addition Elle later posted a statement on its Facebook page that said it took Levitsky's use of "fat" out of context.

"We believe that anyone should use whatever words they are comfortable with when describing themselves," it said.

The company said it has offered Levitsky her job back.

But Levitsky said it would be disingenuous to return and work for an organization that has disappointed her so much, she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Uzair Ahmed, owner of InstaMek, says he's disappointed with the provincial government's delays on its job creation plan.

KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

Job plan delay 'a slap in the face'

ECONOMY

Small business owner says company could lose $15K

Sanam Islam
Metro | Edmonton

For months, small business owner Uzair Ahmed has been waiting patiently for the Alberta government to launch its promised job creation plan.

Four months after the program was supposed to be in place, his patience is wearing thin.

He said he's hired three full-time employees for his on-demand auto repair company, InstaMek, since January. And he said he did so under the assumption that he would be reimbursed 10 per cent of their salaries — $5,000 each — under the program.

Last Tuesday, Ahmed said he contacted the minister of economic development and trade's office to get an update on the initiative, which was supposed to start in January.

"The woman I spoke to said the job creation program is under review, that it's being refreshed, so they're going to look into it. It might go up and it might go down, it might be cancelled, and there's no deadline," Ahmed said.

"That's like the worst answer in the world."

If the program is cancelled, Ahmed said the business would feel the effect.

"Ten per cent makes a lot of difference. It would really tighten things up," he said. "It's a slap in the face.… You think this government cares about small businesses, but they don't."

Metro placed calls to Economic Development and Trade Minister Darren Bilous but did not get a response.

In early March, spokesperson Marion Nader told Metro the government wouldn't cut the program, but couldn't confirm it would move ahead as originally planned.

Ahmed said he had been looking to hire a fourth employee, but with no guarantees about the job grant and a tough economy, he's put those plans on hold.

He said he is also considering moving his business — which also has offices in Calgary and Toronto — elsewhere.

"We'll see how things go for a year before we decide.… If we want to be a nationwide company and grow quickly we have to have the right incentive to stay."

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Push for sex assault policies

STUDENT SAFETY

Government, students urge campuses to develop them

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Students want sexual assault issues brought to the forefront, they want their institutions to be held accountable to keep statistics, offer support and resources — and they're turning to the government for answers.

In February, students with CASA gathered and passed a policy to create standalone sexual assault policies. The recommendations outlined in their Promoting Campuses Free From Sexual Violence and Harassment document ask for uniform definitions, better statistical tracking and even support in the form of education about consent.

According to the group's research, there have been 700 reported cases of sexual assault across Canadian campuses from 2009 to 2015, but another study out of the Centre for Research and Education on Violence Against Women and Children cites 15 to 25 per cent of college and university students will be victimized by sexual assault

"One of the biggest struggles about sexual assault is tracking it….reporting is an issue, but reporting on reporting is also a big issue," said Mount Royal University student Madina Kanayeva.

Kanayeva chairs the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations' Federal Policy Committee — and sits on the SAMRU executive. One of her main concerns about post-secondary institutions creating their own standalone policies has to do with each iteration of defining terms, and how it can skew what's happening on campus. "I don't know how they're going to tackle that unless all universities have the same definitions."

Kirsty McGowan has been actively taking part as the University of Calgary reviews its sexual assault policies. She's hoping for a standalone policy.
KENNETH APPLEBY/METRO

Advanced Education Minister Marlin Schmidt said he's encouraging all institutions to create standalone sexual assault policies.

"Our primary interest is in making sure campuses are safe spaces for all students," said Schmidt.

On Feb. 8 the University of Alberta announced they would be adopting 46 recommendations after they did a comprehensive review of the campus's response to sexual assault allegations. The recommendations included creating a standalone sexual assault policy immediately to clearly outline expected behaviour, practices and standards for those in the university community.

Currently the University of Calgary's own sexual assault report with recommendations is going up the governance chain before it's approved. According to the U of C, the process has been ongoing since 2015, when a committee was formed to conduct a review.

Schools in Alberta already have, and are required to have policies in place that address sexual assault, but Kirsty McGowan, VP of Student Life at the SU, said up until this point students haven't had a clear-cut policy when it comes to reporting and confronting sexual assault.

"One of the recommendations of that document was to create a standalone sexual assault policy," McGowan said.

"I think it's really important that students are provided a clear document that they can access really easily and understand really easily, especially for someone who may have experienced a sexual assault."

At Mount Royal University, there's another review underway. A spokesperson said they are reviewing formal processes around disclosures and enhancing supports they provide to sex assault survivors.

Minister Schmidt said policies that may be problematic should be revisited to ensure they're meeting student needs.

Although he didn't say whether the government should implement standalone sexual assault policies, Schmidt noted it's the province's role to hold institutions to account.

"If they're failing to protect students, then it's our role to work through the board chair and administration," he said.

PRACTICAL HELP

Dedicated support at MRU

Mount Royal University is taking steps to bolster sexual assault victim resources on campus with a first-of-its kind partnership with Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse (CCASA).

A CCASA expert will visit weekly to meet with victims on campus and offer help as part of a satellite outreach program.

The school has also hired a dedicated Sexual Violence Response and Awareness Co-ordinator — Cari Ionson.

"My main focus is ensuring we're equipped to respond effectively," said Ionson. "A lot of my work is around advocates on campus who can support people who have experienced sexual violence in navigating the system."

Ionson has been in her role since January and said one of the reasons they brought CCASA on board was to give students specialists when coming forward for help.

The school has always had counselling resources through their Wellness Services, but those counsellors are general practitioners.

"There's a lot of myths around sexual violence," Ionson said.

"It's a very nuanced issue, and so it does require a specialized support."

CCASA Executive Director Danielle Aubry is applauding MRU for stepping up and facing sexual assault issues head-on.

"We've been fighting an uphill battle for years and years, in terms of having people, having society, having institutions take this issue seriously," Aubrey said.

"We've definitely seen a difference in the past year with post-secondaries, we've been waiting for this."

HELEN PIKE/METRO

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Luge crash survivor out of hospital

OLYMPIC PARK

Teen posts a thank-you video on social media

A survivor of a deadly crash during an after-hours visit to a luge-bobsled track is crediting his deep faith for helping with his recovery.

Caleb Hettinga suffered critical injuries when he and seven other teens climbed over a fence at Calgary's Canada Olympic Park in the wee hours of Feb. 6 and went down the run on three plastic sleds. They hit a large gate used to separate the luge and bobsled tracks.

In a video posted to social media, Caleb thanks members of his family's church for their prayers and support. A metal halo circles the top of his head and a patch covers his right eye.

"One thing that I learned through this experience is that God never leaves you alone to suffer through an experience like this," says the 18-year-old.

"A lot of people would probably get really depressed after something like this. But I've really felt a peace and a hope through this."

Caleb's grandfather, Larry Sagert, told parishioners in another video that the youths had no idea there was a barricade on the run. He said "five of the eight boys were clotheslined by a heavy chain."

> **I've really felt a peace and a hope through this.**
> Caleb Hettinga

The impact "smashed every bone" of his grandson's face, broke the base of his skull and cost him the vision in his right eye, Sagert said.

Twin 17-year-old brothers Evan and Jordan Caldwell, who had worked at the facility the previous summer, were killed.

Caleb's uncle, Mark Hettinga of Saskatoon, said Tuesday that the teen got out of hospital a few weeks ago and is continuing to recover at home.

Hettinga plans to hold a silent auction this weekend to raise money to help out his brother's family, which is facing high medical expenses.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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PARKS

City plans beaver census after flood

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

The City of Calgary is trying to keep up with the ever-hungry and powerful beavers whose chomping powers have only been strengthened by the 2013 flood.

In Calgary, beavers are at home and treat the parks like their own backyard. They fell trees to build lodges and stay satisfied.

According to city officials, their first line of defence against beavers comes with wiring trees. Then they go to planting trees beavers don't really like to eat. Yup, they're picky.

Then there's draining dams and finally if the city runs out of options they have to lethally trap the beavers.

"We will trap them out ... it's the last resort," said Tanya Hope, City of Calgary parks ecologist. "They do belong here and they do excellent work."

Hope recalled the storm water pond in Prince's Island Park after the flood. The waters had blown one end of the dam out and the city would have had to do mitigation in that spot. She said beavers actually built a dam there and fixed the storm water pond.

"They helped us out and we want to continue to live with them."

This year the city is attempting to conduct a beaver census. The population estimate will look at where lodges are, the number of beavers, and where the city needs to ramp up tree wiring.

According to Hope, the Canadian mascots have changed locales since the flood. The changes in the waterbed have forced beavers into areas they've never been seen in before.

"Slow moving sections turned fast, so beavers can access different areas that they may not have been able to," Hope said. "They're also more clubbed together. We have areas we need some assistance to save the trees."

An American beaver in the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve. COURTESY STEVE HERSEY

Hope said usually beavers leave their family lodge and move on, but now, beavers are moving closer to home — and it's put an increased pressure on trees.

They're smart, too. According to Hope, the beavers have learned to climb over the wiring, or even chew through it — so the city has had to adapt.

"We do leave trees for beavers, we leave about 20 per cent of the trees unwired, because we need to have food for them if we want them here," Hope said. "That's on a site-by-site basis."

The creatures especially damaged trees last fall, which is what spurred the move towards a system-wide analysis of beaver activity.

WIRING

Volunteer events
The city is hosting volunteer events to ramp up wiring this season. The events will happen in Bowmont/Baker Park, Carburn Park, Edworthy Park and along the Elbow River in Mission. Visit calgary.ca for more information.

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PROVINCE

Legislation aims to help seniors with home repairs

Alberta is introducing new rules for seniors who want to stay in their homes but need loans for home repairs and renovations.

Seniors Minister Lori Sigurdson said Wednesday the proposed legislation would allow the department to hand out loans to homeowners over 65 for up to $40,000 in home improvements related to quality of life.

They could include walk-in tubs, wheelchair ramps, stair lifts or room renovations. New roofs, replacement furnaces and updated hot-water tanks would also be eligible.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Premier to address downturn in TV talk

One week before her government is to introduce its budget, Premier Rachel Notley is to deliver a 15-minute talk on TV about the economic challenges facing Alberta families. Notley's pre-recorded address is to be broadcast tonight at 6:45 p.m. on CTV and Global stations. The cost for production and air time is pegged at $90,000.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oilsands perception shifting, says official

The lead architect of Alberta's climate change plan says that despite some opposition, the initiative is helping shift the debate on the oilsands nationally and internationally. It's all part of a changing dialogue globally on greenhouse gas policy, Andrew Leach said, pointing to the Paris climate accord and a Canada-U.S. agreement on methane reductions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SWAT Bots Robotics wasted no time in tearing down their opponent's defences and scoring goals. KENNETH APPLEBY/FOR METRO

Robots click into gear

TECHNOLOGY

More than 35 teams face off in ball battle

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

If the robot uprising involves dodge balls, we're in big trouble.

More than 35 teams from around the world congregated at the University of Calgary on Wednesday to show off their mechanical wonders in competition of robo-athleticism and elbow grease.

The First Robotics Western Canada Regional competition gave teams just six weeks to build a robot that could shoot a dodgeball in a tower to score points, while navigating obstacles like draw bridges, uneven platforms and secret passages.

The Ernest Manning Robotics teams, veterans of the mechanized matchups and known for wearing white hard hats during the event, said they were incredibly pleased with their robot's performance.

"I designed this robot, I designed pieces on it," said team captain George Smith. "To see this robot go from design to building to working in the competition, it's just so great."

Students worked after school to create the robot, often working late into the evening during the build and testing phase.

> **We had only six weeks to build the robots.**
> Luis Mareo

Smith said his team initially developed two designs — the first was very slow, shot about medium height but could pick up balls with incredible ease. The second could shoot faster and higher, which translated into more points, but had more difficulty picking up balls.

The team eventually went with the second design, and made it to the semi-finals.

Smith's team also had the advantage of transporting their robot from just across the city — some teams, like TechDroid, had to transport their robot all the way from Mexico.

"We had only six weeks to build the robots, and we had to get sponsors and donations to get the parts in order to compete," said Luis Mareo, TechDroid team member.

Mareo said his team was there because of the passion they have for robotics, in learning how to make it efficient and working well with your teammates.

Smith hopes robotics competitions will become more popular going forward.

EDUCATION

CBE sees reduced deficit

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

The Calgary Board of Education's second-quarter budget variance report has some good news — a decreased forecast deficit to the tune of $3.5 million, $14.4 million lower than anticipated in the budget.

CBE chief financial officer Brad Grundy said they're very pleased the forecasted deficit has come down as much as it has.

"As an organization we do everything we can to make sure we get as much money into the classroom as possible and by reducing the deficit that means we're not borrowing from the future to fund the present," he said.

Grundy said their initial May 2015 budget — for a school year beginning the following September — forecast the deficit as $17.929 million.

"There is always going to be some level of imprecision in our forecast," he said.

Originally, Grundy said the CBE was planning on funding the deficit through their reserves, but now they can use that money elsewhere.

"For example we have approval to construct a gym at the Nelson Mandela High School. The province is going to fund about two-thirds of that and the board needs to fund the other third — now that we have some reserves available to us, that becomes more likely."

The biggest money saver for the CBE this year — around $7 million — turned out to be lower salary and benefit costs related to budgeted calculations and reduced staffing.

"Due to staff turnover we had newer staff and they cost less," he said.

SPECIAL INVITATION

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in collaboration with Catholic Diocese of Calgary invite the public to attend an **Interfaith Conference** on the **Life of Jesus**

- **Event cost:** *Free*
- **Who will be speaking:** *Muslim & Christian speakers (including Bishop Frederick Henry)*
- **Location:** *Baitun Nur Mosque 4353 54 Ave NE, Calgary*
- **RSVP:** *www.IslamEvents.ca*
- **Event type:** *Interfaith*
- **When:** *April 9th 2016, Saturday* **Dinner:** *5:30 pm* **Proceeding:** *6:30 - 8:30 pm*
- **Who is invited:** *Everyone is welcome*
- **Phone:** *403-874-4787*

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Bursary to 'keep her spirit alive'

MOUNT ROYAL UNIVERSITY

Crowdfunding, auction raise money to help others in PR

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

Charismatic, vivacious and unique are just a few of the words used to describe Alexandra Drouin.

Alexandra died last August at the age of 27 after going to the hospital for stomach pains. She died a few days later when medicine to treat a small blood clot in her liver caused her to have a stroke.

Now, Alexandra's friends and family are raising money to fund a Mount Royal University bursary in her name, to be given to a mature student enrolled in the public-relations program.

"Part of me thinks she would think it's funny there's a bursary in her name. I mean she wasn't an A student by any means," said her sister, Nicole Drouin. "Her personality and her way of interacting with people is what really attracted others to her."

Nicole said Alexandra, who graduated from Mount Royal in June, was made for the public-relations program and had an impact on everyone she met during her studies.

"When she was older she knew what she wanted to do and she got really into the program. It was for sure the right field for her," said Nicole. "All of her teachers remember her, and it's for sure because of her personality."

A sold-out silent auction event was held Wednesday night to help raise money for the Alexandra Drouin bursary.

Alexandra Drouin died last August at the age of 27. Now, friends and family want to honour her with a bursary. CONTRIBUTED

> **All of her teachers remember her, and it's for sure because of her personality.**
> Nicole Drouin

Supporters have launched a USEED crowdfunding campaign with the goal of raising $10,000 toward the bursary.

"She wasn't able to live out her dream, so being able to help a student every year and be able to contribute that way back into the community and live out her dream is important to us because this way her legacy will live on," said Nicole.

Chelsea Smyth, a friend of Alexandra's who went through the PR program with her, said she's glad she got to know Alexandra's "big and bold personality."

"We hope this bursary can help to keep her spirit alive through the halls of Mount Royal," said Smyth.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Calgary 911 fields hundreds of pointless calls each day

In a 24-hour cycle, Calgary's 911 call centre receives around 300 "pocket dials" or hang-up phone calls.

Dan Odney, deputy commander for Calgary 911, said when they receive a suspected accidental call it takes time away from actual emergency calls.

"We have to attend to everyone of those and determine whether or not it's an emergency," he said. "Certain calls that we have suspicion might be an actual emergency we'll dispatch the police — but it ties up our emergency communications officers from answering real 911 calls."

Odney said Calgary 911 doesn't like to judge an individual on their reasons for calling — whether founded or not — and said they take every accidental call, or calls that shouldn't be coming to 911, as a chance for public education.

"We find for the most part our callers are using good judgment," he said.

He said emergency call operators take the time to explain and educate anyone who uses 911 improperly — but they also know when to wrap up.

"We have red lights in the room and that's a message to our emergency communications officers to free themselves up on those maybe frivolous or non-emergency type calls," he said.

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Snowden praises leaker

DEMOCRACY

Panama Papers show a 'vital' need for more whistleblowers

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

The need for whistleblowers is greater than ever following the release of the Panama Papers, Edward Snowden told a Vancouver audience Tuesday evening.

The National Security Agency whistleblower appeared via web link at Queen Elizabeth Theatre for a Simon Fraser University Public Square forum on big data, moderated by CBC journalist Laura Lynch.

Inevitably, Snowden — who exposed mass surveillance by the United States government and its allies in 2013 and who is currently living in Russia for fear of arrest — was asked about the release of the Panama Papers this week.

The papers, reportedly the biggest data leak in history, contain the private database of law firm Mossack Fonseca and reveals how offshore tax havens are used by companies and individuals, including some world leaders, to avoid billions of dollars in taxes.

Edward Snowden speaks to CBC journalist Laura Lynch via web-link during a Simon Fraser University Public Square forum on big data in Vancouver on Tuesday. SCREENGRAB

"We have found that countries where we might have suspected this kind of corruption — such as China, Ukraine and Russia — were not alone," said Snowden. "This reveals that one of the founding premises of democracy, which is that one law applies equally to both the powerful and the powerless, is beginning to change. And it happens without our knowledge, our awareness and without our consent.

"The most privileged and the most powerful members of society are operating under a different set of rules that exempt them from not only the same laws to which we are held, not only the same standards of behaviours to which we are held, but they don't even pay the same taxes that we do," he continued. "And yet (they are) the ones who benefit the most from the structures of society."

The leak and the subsequent fallout worldwide shows the need for whistleblowers, Snowden said.

"I think that this shows, more than ever, the role of the whistleblower in free society has become not only desirable but vital."

Asked by Lynch whether he had been in contact with the leaker of the Panama Papers, whose identity remains unknown, Snowden managed to conjure a laugh out of the sold-out crowd.

"If they had, I could not say one way or another. But for the record, I haven't," Snowden said, adding it's for the best. "I'm probably under a lot more monitoring than the average journalist."

WITH FILES FROM TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TAX EVASION

Trudeau urges global crackdown

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Wednesday the international community has to work together to make global finance more transparent to prevent the sort of inequality highlighted by the so-called Panama Papers scandal.

Otherwise, rich investors will simply "hop" around to favourable jurisdictions where they can avoid paying tax, Trudeau said.

"The level of awareness that citizens of the world are beginning to take in regards to tax avoidance and evasion is a good thing," Trudeau said.

"But it's certainly something that we will be working on together as a community of nations."

Trudeau was asked about the matter in Montreal, where the annual general meeting of the Royal Bank of Canada — the only Canadian bank linked to the data leak — was also taking place Wednesday. Media reports say the bank used Mossack Fonseca, a Panamanian law firm at the centre of the data leak, to set up more than 370 shell companies. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Michal Kapral COURTESY CHRISTINE SPINGOLA/CANADA RUNNING SERIES

RECORDS

World's fastest joggler

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Canada is home to the fastest half marathon joggler in the world.

Toronto's Michal Kapral got the word Monday from Guinness World Records that the 1 hour and 20 minutes it took him to complete the 2014 Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront half marathon while juggling three balls set a new bar.

As far as Kapral is concerned, it's just the first formal recognition of his many successes. He's pretty sure he's been unofficially setting and breaking records since picking up jogging and juggling many years ago.

NOVA SCOTIA

Rehtaeh's story still touching many lives

Thursday marks three years since Dartmouth, N.S., teen Rehtaeh Parsons' death, but her mother Leah Parsons said her daughter's story is still changing lives.

"I get messages from people all the time about how Rehtaeh has helped them, how she has saved their lives, made them get help, has given them the strength to speak out and say 'You know what? This happened to me too and I need to get help for this now,'" Parsons said in an interview.

"A woman came up to me just the other day and said her daughter is here now because she reads the posts that I put up. She (Rehtaeh) is a pretty powerful force. Still."

It was April 4, 2013, when Rehtaeh attempted suicide following months of cyberbullying. On April 7, 2013, the 17-year-old was taken off life support.

"She was my driving force I'd say, and she's still here. I feel her presence when I go to speak … I'm giving her a voice, but it's her," Parsons said.

"She never wanted to be silenced and she never tried to hide what happened to her. She tried to fight back. She tried to stick up for herself the best she could and I just feel that I have to keep talking for her and bringing this conversation over and over again to whoever wants to listen to it because that's her legacy."

Rehtaeh Parsons and her mother Leah. CONTRIBUTED

Trump's lead now damaged

U.S. ELECTION

Wisconsin dealt blow to front-runner's campaign

Republican Donald Trump emerged from the Wisconsin primaries as a damaged front-runner following a crushing primary loss to rival Ted Cruz, deepening questions about the billionaire businessman's presidential qualifications and pushing the Republican Party toward a rare contested convention nomination fight.

Democrat Bernie Sanders also scored a sweeping victory Tuesday, giving him fresh incentive to keep challenging Hillary Clinton. But Sanders still lags behind Clinton in the all-important delegate count.

Both parties now turn their sights toward New York, which offers a massive delegate prize in its April 19 contests. It marks a homecoming of sorts for several candidates, with Trump, Clinton and Sanders all boasting roots in the state.

In the Republican primary system, candidates vie in each state to win delegates, who then vote for the nominee at party conventions over the summer. If no candidate wins an outright majority in the first vote of the convention, most delegates are free to change their allegiance, so candidates would have to compete to win their support.

Cruz has stepped forward as the candidate best positioned to block Trump in the Republican race, though it would likely take a convention battle to accomplish that goal.

A Texas senator with a complicated relationship with Republican leaders, Cruz cast his Wisconsin victory as a "turning point" in the race and urged the party to rally around his candidacy.

Even if Cruz's gains do force the Republican race into a contested convention in July, it is unclear whether he would emerge as the nominee, or whether the party would try to put forward someone else.

In the Republican race, Cruz was poised to collect most of Wisconsin's 42 Republican delegates.

In the Democratic race, Sanders still trails Clinton in the pledged delegate count and has so far been unable to persuade superdelegates — the party officials who can back any candidate — to drop their allegiance to the former secretary of state and back his campaign.

At a raucous rally in Wyoming, Sanders cast his victory as a sign of mounting momentum for his campaign.

"With our victory tonight in Wisconsin, we have now won seven out of eight of the last caucuses and primaries," he declared. Sanders is favoured to win Wyoming's Democratic caucuses on Saturday, but it offers a small delegate prize.

Because Democrats award delegates proportionally, Sanders' victory in Wisconsin did not cut significantly into Clinton's lead in the pledged delegate count.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scenes from 16 years in space

NASA's Terra satellite has been orbiting Earth every day since 1999. Over those 16 years, one of its instruments, a joint American-Japanese radiometer known as ASTER, has captured some 2.95 million scenes of Earth — cities, glaciers, deserts, disasters and more. Now, those maps are available to the public. Here are some of the most awe-inspiring images from the ASTER database. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The Andes

The Andes along the Chile-Bolivia border. Visible and infrared data have been computer enhanced to exaggerate the colour differences of the different materials, including lava flows.

Kansas

Center-pivot irrigation in the croplands of Finney County, Kansas, create a patchwork of healthy green vegetation and yellow fallow or harvested fields.

Siberia

The Kondyor Massif in Eastern Siberia, Russia. The rare, perfectly circular "igneous intrusion" is full of valuable minerals, including platinum.

Nunavut

Glaciers and ice on Ellesmere Island, Nunavut.

New Orleans

New Orleans in 2000 (top) and seventeen days after 2005's Hurricane Katrina (bottom). On the left side of the image, the failed 17th St. canal marks a sharp boundary between flooded city to the east and dry land to the west.

China

Rivers and sediment interact to create an "alluvial fan" between the mountain ranges that form the southern border of China's Taklamakan Desert.

Release name of bank: Critics

FINTRAC

$1.1M fine issued, but agency won't name names

Canada's terrorism and money-laundering watchdog announced Tuesday that has issued a $1.1-million fine against an unknown financial institution for failing to report a suspicious transaction and various other infractions. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Why is the federal anti-money-laundering agency tight-lipped about the name of the first Canadian bank found to violate its regulations, but publicly shaming smaller players?

That's what a wide-ranging group of critics want to know about the first-ever penalty against a bank by the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada.

The terrorism and money-laundering watchdog, known as Fintrac, announced Tuesday that it has issued a $1.1-million fine against an undisclosed financial institution for failing to report a suspicious transaction and various other infractions.

"Our criminal and administrative law regime is based on disclosure of wrongdoing not on secrecy of wrongdoing," said Christine Duhaime, a lawyer who specializes in anti-money-laundering law.

"Joe Average who is fined for any administrative infraction is not afforded secrecy in this way and the rules should apply to all Canadians, legal and natural personals, equally."

Fintrac said Tuesday's announcement is meant to deter others from failing to report.

But the bank's name was not added to a list of violators published on the agency's website. However, the home page shows the name of many smaller companies.

Fintrac collects millions of pieces of data from 31,000 businesses every year and analyzes them for suspicious activity. Those businesses are legally required to report certain financial activities — anything from cash transactions of more than $10,000 to a disguised customer.

The centre has legal power to use its discretion on whether to publicly name companies it has fined. The recent unnamed financial institution isn't the only case where it has taken exception — the companies involved in 34 of the 74 monetary penalties the agency has levied since 2008 have not been disclosed, said spokesman Darren Gibb.

In the case of the bank, the agency decided it was in the public interest to publish the details of the penalty to "send a strong message of deterrence" in a timely manner rather than name the institution after a potentially lengthy appeal process. The financial institution has already paid the $1.1-million penalty.

Michael Baumbach is director of Toronto-based Diamond Exchange Toronto Inc. which was fined $12,750 and named by Fintrac in March. He says the agency is unfairly punishing smaller firms like his jewelry business, which is trying hard to comply, while letting bigger players off the hook.

He believes the bank's name was kept secret because it has resources at its disposal to give Fintrac a legal headache. Meanwhile, he feels powerless when trying to get answers about why it fined his company, which now faces bankruptcy over what he says is an unjust fine.

The first-ever Canadian bank penalty has come to light amid heightened awareness about money laundering in the wake of the so-called Panama Papers, which implicate numerous Canadians in dubious banking practices around the world.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NEW MEASURES

Filing taxes to get simple

Tax season is upon us once again and the Canada Revenue Agency has implemented several new measures in an effort to help streamline the filing of income tax returns.

Tax partner Bruce Ball at BDO Canada says missing slips can be a common problem for many people, but the changes make it harder for them to slip through the cracks. Those registered with CRA's My Account service can use a new auto-fill service with certain tax software packages that automatically fills in parts of an income tax return.

The auto-fill service will help fill in certain information on a tax return including T4 and T5 slips. Filers will still have to check to ensure the information is correct and if they notice a mistake, they'll have to contact whoever issued the slip.

The CRA has also updated notices of assessment. The forms, which are sent after the government processes tax returns, include an account summary, explanation of changes as well as an RRSP deduction limit and other details. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook rearranging buttons to highlight video

Facebook is rearranging the notification panel on its mobile apps in an effort to broaden the audience creating, watching and reacting to live video on its social network.

The shift announced Wednesday is part of Facebook's effort to turn its live video feature into a marquee attraction as more people use their smartphones to record and share snippets of their lives.

Initially introduced as a tool for celebrities eight months ago, Facebook's live video option is now available in 60 countries.

To help promote it, Facebook is moving the button for its Messenger service so that the new video option can be highlighted on the notification panel. When pressed, the video button will show a directory of live streams from a user's friends, as well as segments available to anyone on the world's largest social network.

Messenger notifications will move to the top of Facebook's mobile apps near the search box.

The app update for Apple and Android devices will be rolled out in phases and take several weeks to complete.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Thursday, April 7, 2016

CHANTAL HÉBERT ON THE NDP'S LEADERSHIP CRISIS

In politics, half of the battle often amounts to staying alive to fight another day and, by all indications, Mulcair would be happy to settle for what could be no more than a reprieve.

As the New Democrats prepare to pronounce on Thomas Mulcair's leadership, here is a prediction: Regardless of how the NDP leader scores on confidence vote Sunday, there will be little or no cause for celebration at the party's gathering in Edmonton.

One way or another, most of the delegates will leave the convention with the sense that the leadership issue remains unresolved, and their party is unmoored in the federal universe. There will be no definitive resolution to what ails the NDP this weekend.

Most New Democrats will not really be asking themselves whether they want Mulcair to lead them in another election on Sunday.

If that were really the question put to the convention, the answer would almost certainly be negative or, at least, not positive enough for Mulcair to stay on.

In the five months since the federal election, few backers have emerged for his contention that he will do better next time. The fact that the party will have another shot at showing him the door before the next campaign has surfaced as a more compelling argument for postponing a leadership change.

That's basically the case laid out by — among others — Unifor's president Jerry Dias. The leader of Canada's largest private sector union argues the decision as to who will lead the party in 2019 should be based on what Mulcair achieves between now and the next time his leadership comes up for review in two years.

If the NDP leader survives the weekend it will be, in no small part, on the basis of that logic.

If, on the other hand, his convention support falls short, the many New Democrats who are out to punish him for a disappointing campaign will feel vindicated, but for how long?

Predictably, some of the more aggressive promoters of a leadership change are MPs who lost their seats last fall. Some of them also happen to have been at the table when the campaign strategy — including the party's lacklustre platform — was agreed upon.

For all the talk of poor choices and uninspiring execution, there is no evidence that a more aggressively left-wing approach would have delivered more seats last fall. Moreover, at this juncture, those who believe the party has lost its way in a self-defeating rush to the centre lack a unifying figure to make the case for their conclusions.

To sum up: The NDP does have a leadership crisis on its hands. The only question is whether enough delegates will agree to keep a lid on the issue this weekend. But the larger crisis is one of relevance and it is one that Mulcair's efforts over the past few months have only highlighted.

Much like his campaign strategy, the post-election path he has so far sketched out is based on the presumption that Justin Trudeau's government will so underwhelm progressive voters that they will rediscover the virtues of a moderate NDP and — by the same token — the merits of a ready-for-prime-time leader in 2019.

In politics, half of the battle often amounts to staying alive to fight another day and, by all indications, Mulcair would be happy to settle for what could be no more than a reprieve. After all, beggars can't be choosers.

The New Democrats are meeting on the heels of a resounding defeat in Saskatchewan; at a time when the Manitoba NDP is facing extra-long odds in the quest for a fifth mandate, and with the federal party in the basement of voting intentions

Mulcair can reasonably hope the context will be more favourable to his leadership in a couple of years.

But there is another scenario that may make it worth their while for the New Democrats who absolutely cannot fathom going into the next election with the current leader to keep their powder dry and it's Trudeau's promise of electoral reform.

The advent of a more proportional voting system in time for the next election could go a long way to shift the balance between the NDP's social-democratic ideals and the quest for government in favour of the former. It could also render the rationale for sticking with a middle-of-the-road leader such as Mulcair redundant.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

THE MICROTREND: Femininity consultants

Post-Caitlyn Jenner, trans rights are at the forefront of the fight for equality. For the movement, there are political and economic battles to be fought and entrenched stereotypes to erase. But for individual trans people, there's an equally important struggle: figuring out how to present themselves to an often hostile world. Of course, where there's a need, there's a business opportunity. Hence the inchoate cottage industry of femininity consultants such as Monica Prata, a New York woman (cisgendered) whose company, Nouveau She, provides clients at various stages of transition with advice in makeup, comportment and wardrobe. "Our objective ... is not to create a caricature of femininity but rather to illuminate your beauty within," says Nouveau She's website. SOURCE: VICE; IMAGE: THE CANADIAN PRESS

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Public changerooms: Our secret realm of body positivity

There's Kim Kardashian nude — all pouty and "empowered" on social media.

And then there's changeroom nude.

Where Kim is never short of vapid, Hallmark-inspired defences of nude selfies and her right to "be allowed to be sexy," in the changeroom at the downtown Jewish Community Centre, nudity is allowed to be saggy.

All day long, women file in and out, coming in clothed, exiting clothed. In between? They're naked. And not for self-promotion purposes.

A public changeroom is the anti-porn, the pro-reality. It's not that these average, assorted bodies can't be sensual, but they aren't naked for sex, or even sexiness. And in our culture, that is refreshing. No one is stopping to snap selfies tagged "#liberated." They're busy applying lotion.

Some women are tall and thin, or short and round, small breasts, large ones, slumped shoulders, knocked knees, loose skin, flat bottoms. Chatting in various states of dress and undress, calloused feet on tile floors, blow-drying their hair with a small towel over their bare shoulders to catch the wet drips.

They get dressed in helter-skelter fashion while passing by mirrors for makeup and hair primping.

The clientele skews older, which is enlightening for a young(er) woman. This is your future, their bodies announce, and no amount of #goals will save you from #time.

This is an oasis from beauty norms, even household norms (how many adult children are openly nude with their parents?). I've even seen a naked woman in the hot tub sing to herself, something bluesy.

As a teenager, I hated the flagrant disrobing. I used the private stalls, cringing at even my own mother or sister's bare bodies slipping in and out of swimsuits. Mortified most of all by the shower.

I grew into public nudity as I grew out of self-consciousness. Perhaps changerooms, then, are good barometers for how comfortable you are in your skin. But they're also an opportunity to see how comfortable others are. Others who aren't a Kardashian. Others who probably don't prize looking hot quite so much, and who take interest in other measurements.

It's not syrupy self-love on display, only self-acceptance.

Undoubtedly, most women could criticize their bodies, if asked to. But who would bother? And what's the point? You've already dragged yourself here for some kind of fitness effort, and your limbs are working to whatever degree, and you're not thinking about the size of your tits while you strap on a bra. Blessedly, neither is anyone else.

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NEW GIG
Lena Dunham and Jenni Konner, the brains behind Girls and Lenny, will oversee a line of books for Random House

Candy's history isn't too sweet

Author Susan Benjamin owns several historic candy shops called True Treats Candy. CONTRIBUTED

NEW BOOK

Author looks at the origins of treats

Susan Benjamin owns stores in Maryland and West Virginia called True Treats Candy that specialize in historical candy products, including treats created by Aboriginal Peoples.

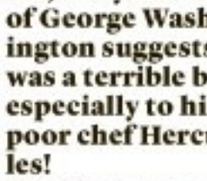
She has now written a history of candy, Sweet as Sin: The Unwrapped Story of How Candy Became America's Favorite Pleasure.

This conversation about her new book has been edited for length.

The idea of candy in North America really started with indigenous fruit — cranberries and blueberries, for example. It's surprising to find that peaches weren't natural to this continent and they changed the way people ate.

When you go through the supermarket, there is very little that exists as it originally was. You have to remember the honeybee didn't get to North America until 1622. The peach came here in the 1500s with the explorers. They flourished, in part, because native Americans created orchards. Fruits that were indigenous to North America, the strawberry and the blueberry, were changed by the European-Americans trying to create a more salable commodity.

We sell, in our historic candy shop, fruit from the Ojibwa tribe, the highbush blueberry and cranberry. You can really taste the difference. Native Americans used all parts of the corn and one good example is corn syrup, and that was used long before the Europeans came. The other corn product would be the corn cob. We sell corn-cob jelly in our shop. Native people would take various parts of the corn and use it as candy.



> **When you talk about candy you have to address the lives of the African Americans. It is really dire and so horrendous.** Susan Benjamin

You write about the chefs who created candied treats for their employers, but your description of George Washington suggests he was a terrible boss, especially to his poor chef Hercules!

Washington was considered relatively good to his slaves. Most of the founding fathers had slaves, except for John Adams. Hercules is an amazing example because he defeated the system by escaping and staying escaped.

When George Washington lived in Philadelphia, which allowed slaves to become free after living in Pennsylvania for at least six months, he would often send his slaves back to Mount Vernon in Virginia, which was a state that had the largest number of slaves in the early United States. Hercules wanted to be his own man. Word got around to George Washington that Hercules wanted to be free, so he sent him back to Virginia and had him do arduous work in the fields. He did that to break Hercules' spirit so Hercules wouldn't think of escaping. Hercules did escape, but Washington did everything in his power to get him back. He posted notices; he offered Hercules the opportunity to come back as a free man.

I believe the main reason for slavery was cane sugar. Huge numbers of workers were needed to produce the cane. So when you talk about candy you have to address the lives of the African Americans. It is really so dire and so horrendous, and I started seeing them as survivors rather than victims. They survived these unbearable circumstances. It made me see my nation in a different way, and that many of these people were unsung inventors in the world of sugar and they need to be honoured and celebrated and admired.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

INTERVIEW

Tina Fey on her edible book and other works she loves

Even for someone as loved as Tina Fey, a reported $6 million advance seemed like a lot of money for a book of essays.

But five years after its publication, Bossypants has sold 3.75 million copies, according to Little, Brown and Co.

And it confirmed a market for smart, funny nonfiction such as Amy Poehler's Yes Please and Mindy Kaling's Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me?

In an email interview Tuesday, Fey discussed Bossypants and some books she has enjoyed recently. She also had a few words for author-journalist Gay Talese, who said last weekend that he could think of no women journalists who inspired him when he was young.

When the book was first published, what were your expectations?

My goal was just to avoid humiliation. After years of writing character-based comedy in a group process with other writers, a book "about me written by me alone" made me feel panicky and vulnerable. I kept telling my husband, "This is going to ruin me."

Why do you think it has done so well, beyond, of course, your fame and the quality of the writing?

It's also edible. Well, I guess all books are if you're hungry enough.

Any books you'd recommend that you've read lately?

I enjoyed Diane Von Furstenberg's autobiography. I loved Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. I'm currently reading Dinosaurs in the Attic — non-fiction about the American Museum of Natural History. Nothing by Gay Talese has moved me. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tina Fey GETTY IMAGES

The City of Lights through the eyes of artists

Matt Wagner's portrait of Parisian artists is part showcase of their eclectic work, part insider's tour of the French capital.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Edifying collection

In The Tall Trees of Paris, American gallerist Matt Wagner asked 42 artists nine questions about life in the culturally rich city. What emerges is as much a collection of their eclectic work as it is an insider's tour of the City of Lights.

Painted Ladies

Hubert de Lartigue creates hyperrealist paintings of his young female muses using an airbrush. "I wait until destiny causes us to meet because before becoming my models, these people will have moved me with their charm and their beauty," he says. "My way of loving them is to paint them. It's literally a perversion."

You glow girl

Illustrator Francesca Protopapa, a.k.a. il Pistrice, sketches come-hither women in colours she describes as "so intensely saturated that they sizzle, seeming to scream with some primal glee."

A moment of pause

Nicolas Martin, a Paris-raised painter who now lives outside Montreal, has said, "I like to paint moments of thinking, waiting and walking."

Traffic stoppers

Paris-based street artist Honet has created work for Prada and collaborated on pieces for Lacoste but his large-scale street murals seen in Paris, London, Athens and beyond remain his signature.

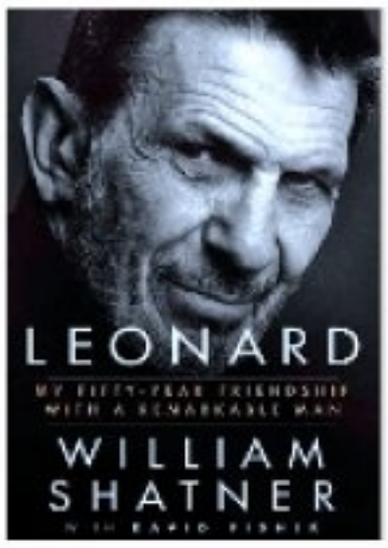
Animal kingdom

Agnès Boulloche's paintings are like dispatches from Wonderland — anthropomorphized animals play parlour games with female nudes while whimsical scenes such as a woman sailing a fish across the sky are framed in the style of classic portraiture.

5 LIVES YOU WON'T WANT TO PUT DOWN

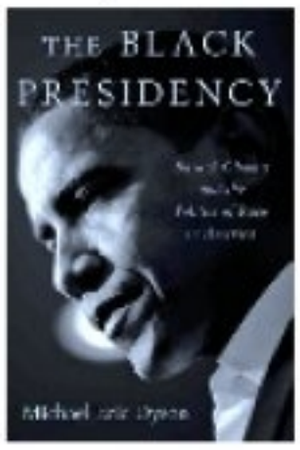
You may have heard their names — but you've never heard their stories told like this. Here are other ways of perceiving familiar lives. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

1 Leonard: My Fifty-Year Friendship With a Remarkable Man by William Shatner with David Fisher

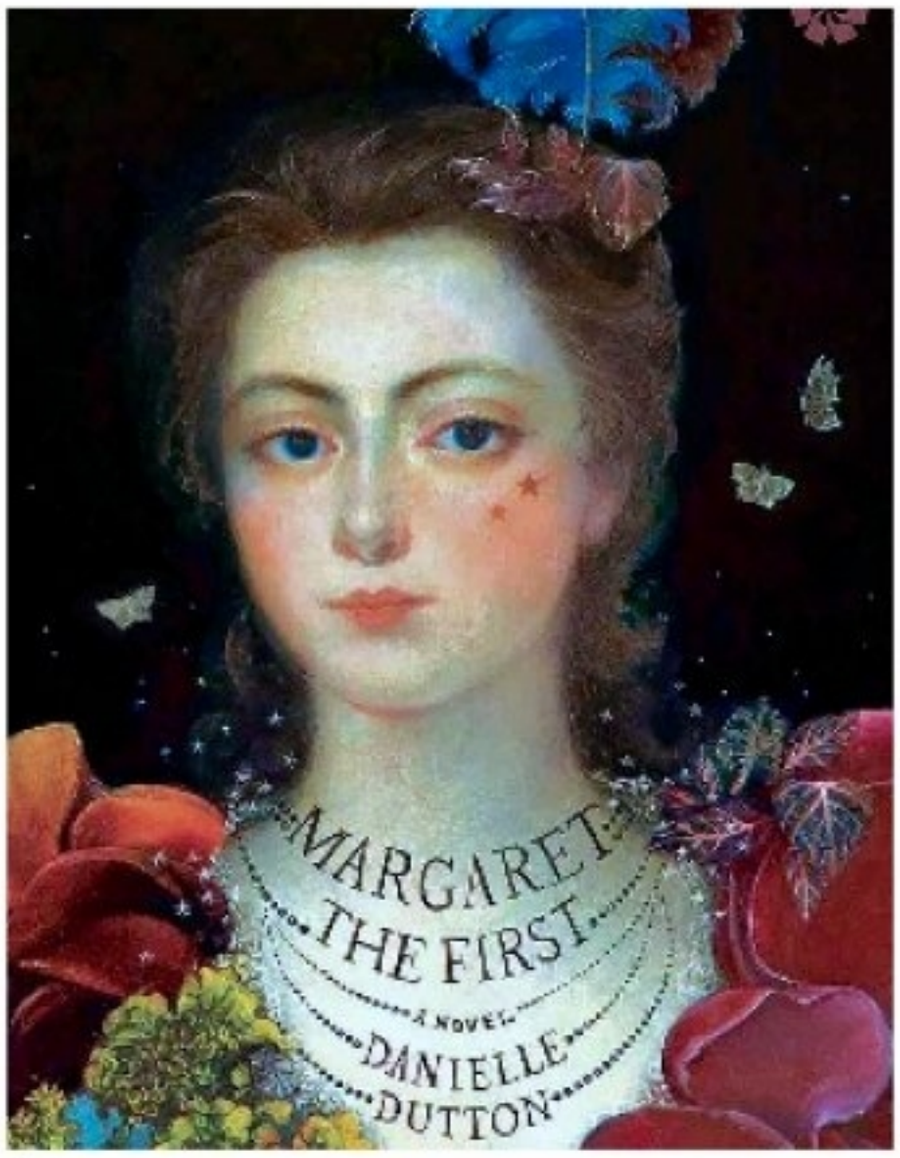


Quick now, when did Leonard Nimoy and William Shatner first meet? Even the most devoted Trekkie will probably get it wrong. It was in 1964, in an episode of The Man From U.N.C.L.E. Their friendship, over three seasons of Star Trek, began the next year and lasted until Nimoy's death.

2 The Black Presidency: Barack Obama and the Politics of Race in America by Michael Eric Dyson



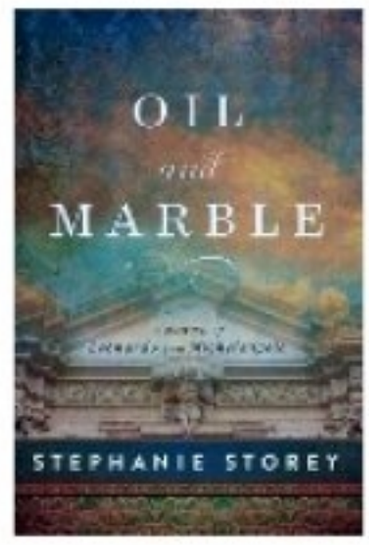
Dyson has first-rate credentials for examining Obama's presidency through the lens of race. He has written 18 books, all of them probing what it means to be black and American, whether the subject be hip hop, bias in the prison system, Hurricane Katrina, Martin Luther King or Bill Cosby.



3 Margaret the First by Danielle Dutton

What an excellent subject on which to hang a novel. Margaret Cavendish, the 17th-century aristocrat, narrates the first section of the book, as well she might. She was the first English woman writer to see her work published. Thus the title: Margaret was the first, an original and quite eccentric.

4 Oil and Marble: A Novel of Leonardo and Michelangelo by Stephanie Storey



This novel is set in Florence, between 1501 and 1505. The handsome Leonardo da Vinci is in his 50s, renowned for his masterful oils; Michelangelo Buonarroti is a struggling 20-something sculptor. Their rivalry, and mutual dislike, is the basis for this smart historical novel.

5 Lust & Wonder by Augusten Burroughs

Burroughs' eighth memoir continues to mine his time on Earth (50 years so far), this time focusing on his search for true love (spoiler alert: he finds it). Burroughs is wise, self-deprecating and funny (sometimes funny scary). Best of all, he doesn't mind coming across as a jerk when the events of his eventful life demand it, and they often do.

Telling the tale of a gay, Yiddish-speaking parrot

YIDDISH FOR PIRATES

Gary Barwin mixes identity and adventure in new book

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

Gary Barwin was working on the manuscript for his novel Yiddish for Pirates one day when his daughter came home from school, and caught him having a chuckle. "Dad, you're laughing at your own jokes again."

It's obvious that the Hamilton, Ont., author enjoyed writing this humorous, pun-laden twist on the classic adventure story, which at its heart deals with the very serious issues of religious persecution and identity — as told by Aaron, a 500-year-old, immortal, gay, Yiddish-speaking parrot.

"I was thinking this is a pirate story; who is the perfect narrator, who is there all the time? I was thinking of a GoPro camera, he's sitting on the shoulders the whole time and he observes," says Barwin. "The other thing I love about parrots is that they are like humans, they can only communicate with the language that they've learned. I feel like that's what I do."

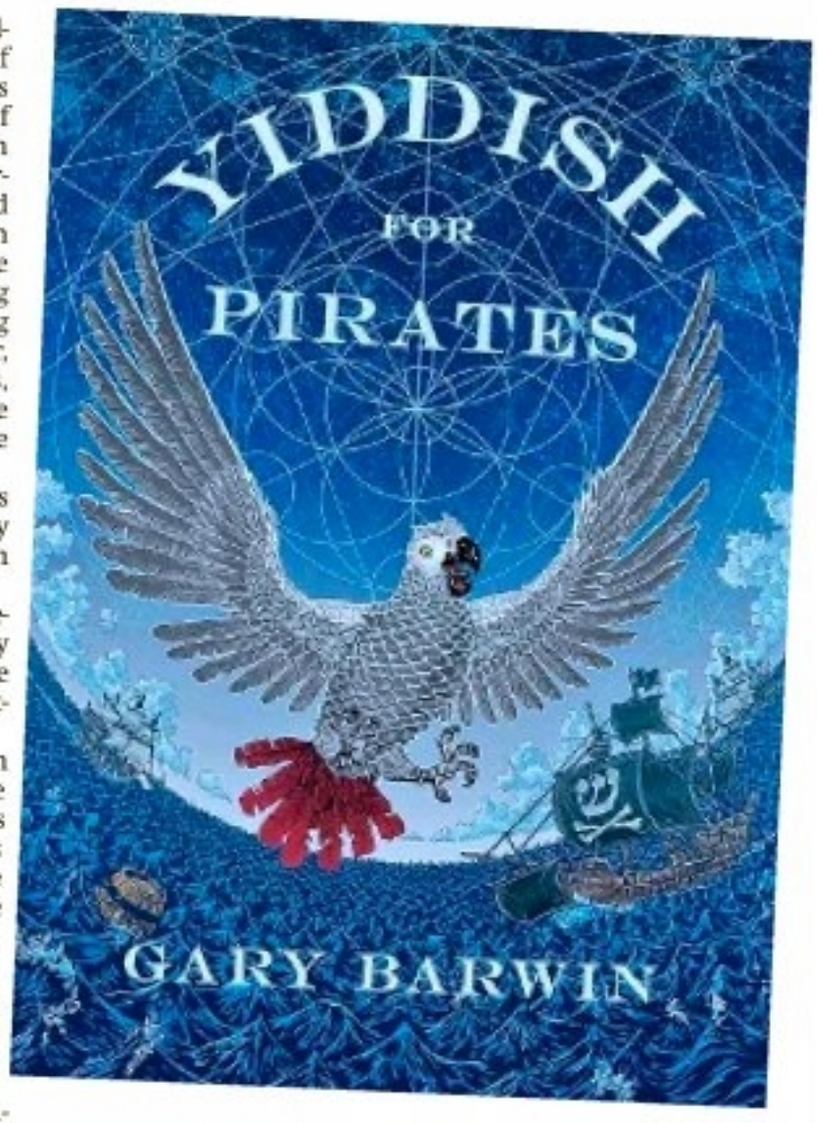
Set in the early 1490s, Yiddish for Pirates tells the story of Moishe, a young boy who joins a ship crew, helps a group of hidden Jews during the Spanish Inquisition to smuggle out forbidden books, falls in love and travels to the New World with Christopher Columbus before becoming a revenge-seeking pirate. Despite Barwin's long resume as a poet and performer, this is his first novel for adults, released under Random House Canada's prestigious New Face of Fiction program.

Writing Yiddish for Pirates gave Barwin the opportunity to engage deeper with his own religion.

"There's something about being Jewish and Jewish identity and its relationship to language and story that's really captivating to me," he says.

"I had to constantly be open to where the story would take me next. I never believed this when other writers said this before, but it really felt like the characters and the language really took me — I just followed along."

While the book deals with historical tragedies, many of which have jarring similarities to today's world, it does so through dark, ironic humour, a trait he also finds empowering in Judaism. Barwin resisted using puns, but as he progressed, his characters demanded more slang and slapstick (many of which involve various bodily functions).



"Pirates were these word-invention machines. These insults and swashbuckling threats are such a juicy joy to speak," he says.

"That's a component of that in Yiddish as well. People who speak Yiddish love to revel in the Yiddishisms and clever charismatic ways of saying things. It's so fun to riff off of those."

Writing the book also brought back childhood memories of voraciously reading adventure stories and watching pirate movies.

Although he was a "not-adventuresome kid," Barwin recalls turning a radio aerial into a sword and pretending he was the swash-buckling pirate.

"The thing about being a pirate is that you're almost flying through the air — you can leap over convention and you live in this place of adventure and self-definition, and fighting for what you think is important."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

"There's something about being Jewish and Jewish identity and its relationship to language ... that's really captivating to me
Gary Barwin

RELAUNCH

Clever team behind Panther

Mike Donachie
Metro | Canada

BLACK PANTHER #1
BY: Ta-Nehisi Coates, Brian Stelfreeze and Laura Martin
PUBLISHER: Marvel Comics

Marvel have done a lot of cool things lately, but perhaps the coolest is the relaunch of Black Panther and the choice of its creative team.

With issue one appearing just ahead of the character's much-anticipated appearance in the movie Captain America: Civil War, this new book is a lot deeper than the movie is expected to be.

It's been written by Ta-Nehisi Coates, an extremely clever man who writes about politics and culture for The Atlantic and last year won a National Book Award for Between The World and Me.

With beautiful art by Brian Stelfreeze, this book is itself extremely clever. The Black Panther is, once again, T'Challa, king of mineral rich, high-tech African nation Wakanda.

But in this book Coates asks a good question: what kind of king can you be when you're running around being a superhero with the Avengers? And why would his people accept an absolute monarchy?

It's an entertaining book that's worth picking up for its intelligent storytelling.

Western by a teenage Thurber published

FOUND STORY

Walter Mitty author was taken by genre

Before becoming one of the great wits of the 20th century, James Thurber was a teenager hooked on Westerns.

The Columbus, Ohio, native would remember fondly such "nickel novels" as Jed, the Trapper and The Liberty Boys of '76, and was so caught up in the gun duel of Owen Wister's The Virginian, he became physically ill. Inevitably, Thurber sketched out a couple of tales himself, including How Law and Order Came to Aramie, completed when he was around 18 and unpublished for more than a century. It appears in The Strand Magazine's latest issue.

"You can definitely see this is a young Thurber, who is very talented, spoofing those Westerns," Strand managing editor Andrew Gulli told The Associated Press during a recent interview.

Thurber was a prominent writer for The New Yorker, known for his drawings and for such stories as The Secret Life of Walter Mitty and The Catbird Seat. He died in 1961 at age 66. Aramie, its handwritten manuscript found by Gulli in the archives of Ohio State University, tells of a sheriff named "Big" John Oakes, big not in physical stature but "in the quality of his nature." Sheriff Oakes' authority has been challenged by the gang of Bud Tevis, leading to a confrontation that ends with Tevis running away, a heroic fantasy the daydreaming Mitty might have imagined for himself.

The story has the kind of vernacular ("It seemed like Bud would bust awaitin' fer that gun to blow") Thurber would use unforgettably in his baseball yarn You Could Look it Up. It also includes such absurdist touches as a sleeping Sheriff Oakes "grotesquely doubled up on the antique couch," and shows Thurber's emerging gifts for description and characterization.

"For some minutes the little sheriff was silent, the tense, hard look on his face unchanging, his grey eyes glinting under their fine, sensitive eyebrows, the muscles of his jaws moving sharply at intervals," Thurber wrote. "(H)e tore himself from his abstraction with a brief, characteristic gesture, and, without a word, unholstered his gun and examined it carefully. But for the glint in his eyes, like the flash of a polished filing in the sunlight, he seemed to have sunk again into a deep study."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A lost Western by James Thurber was published last week.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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RENT

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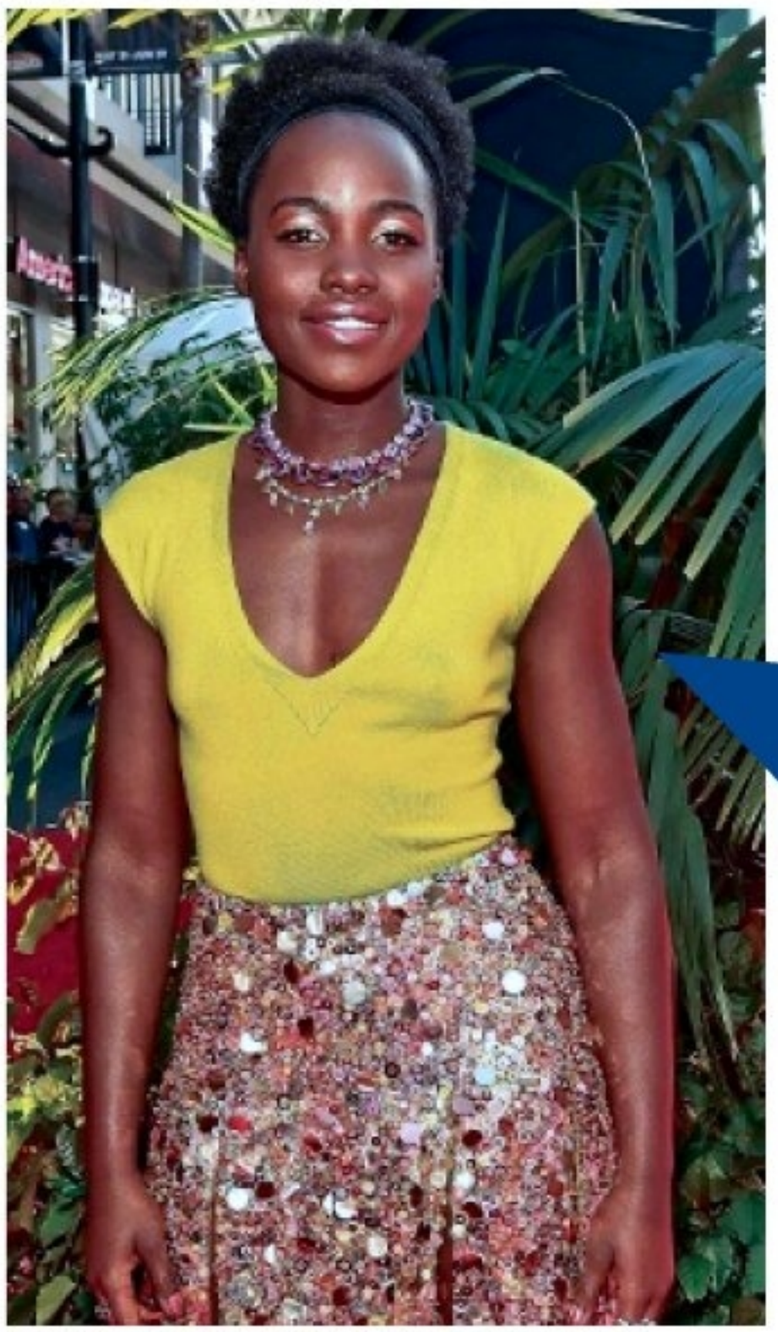
RENT

CONDOS

Lupita Nyong'o channels her inner wolf mother



Lupita Nyong'o attends The Jungle Book premiere in Los Angeles earlier this week. GETTY IMAGES

THE JUNGLE BOOK

Oscar winner is keeping busy with films and Broadway

Lupita Nyong'o's career has moved well along since her Academy Award two years ago, yet she's still basking in the glow of her Oscar win.

"I never expected to win in the first place, so I didn't have any expectations as to what life would look like after that, but I'm happy. I'm a really happy person. I love my life," said Nyong'o at the world premiere of The Jungle Book this week in Los Angeles.

Nyong'o, who won best supporting actress in 2014 for 12 Years a Slave, currently stars in Broadway's Eclipsed and is back on set for Star Wars: Episode VIII.

"I sleep whenever I can. I get massages and acupuncture and I eat well," said Nyong'o of surviving her busy schedule. "I plan what I eat a week in advance and then I don't have to worry about it on a day-to-day basis."

Nyong'o voices Raksha, Mowgli's adoptive wolf mother in Jon Favreau's live-action remake of The Jungle Book, which is in theatres on April 15.

"I channelled my own mother who is fierce and unwavering in her motherly ways," she said of the role.

"I just think as a woman, I think we all have it somewhere in us and it was about finding it."

Up next, she'll reprise her role in the highly anticipated Episode VIII, but in true Star Wars fashion, Nyong'o remained tight-lipped about the project.

"It's really cool," she said of working with the franchise's newest director, Rian Johnson.

"The adventure continues you know and it's never a dull moment on that set."

Episode VIII is slated for a December 2017 release.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"I channelled my own mother who is fierce and unwavering in her motherly ways."
Lupita Nyong'o on her role voicing Raksha, Mowgli's adoptive wolf mother in The Jungle Book

NEW BOOK

Rescue dog the Toast of Instagram

There was too much sun, swimming, eating and zooming about in Jaguars and private helicopters, but Instagram diva Toast the dog took the Hamptons last summer and lived to write about it.

The pup with the floppy tongue and loyal social media following is out with her first book, a collection of swanky, beachy photos, ToastHampton: How to Summer in Style.

While, yes, Toast would rather be carried than walk on her own four paws, and yes, she prefers bottled water over tap, the ruby Cavalier King Charles spaniel with the substantial wardrobe is also a visible advocate for a good cause: ending inhumane puppy mills and encouraging humans to adopt older pets through rescue organizations.

Toast was rescued from a North Carolina mill in 2011 at age 5 or 6. She was a breeding mom who lost all her teeth to decay, allowing her tongue to chronically escape her mouth — her signature trait on Instagram. Her human mom and "dogager," Katie Sturino, put Toast's first photo up on Instagram about two years ago and away she went under the handle @toastmeetsworld.

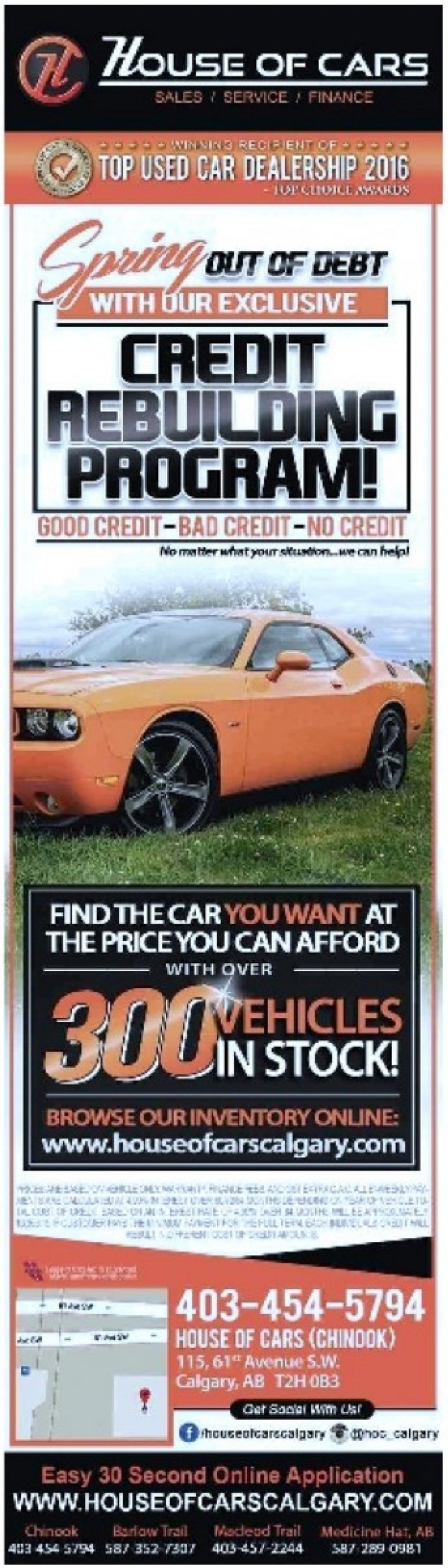
While Toast is no Kim Kardashian in the social media numbers game, she has amassed about 350,000 followers on Instagram. Now, she models for fashion and photo shoots, including a stint as the fuzzy face of Karen Walker's eyewear collection for spring 2015.

When Toast found her forever family with Sturino, and dad and fellow Instagrammer Josh "The Fat Jew" Ostrovsky, she was in bad shape. Her teeth were infected and her coat was a ratty mess, Sturino said, but "she was smiling. She charmed us from day one."

Toast, a Cavalier King Charles spaniel, is using her celebrity power to end inhumane puppy mills. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In addition to the book, out May 24 from Harper Design, Toast and her mom will lend their testimony to a proposal in New Jersey to end pet store sales of dogs and cats from puppy mills. A portion of proceeds from the book will go to Friends of Finn, Sturino said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



MUSIC

Health issues delay Janet Jackson tour

Janet Jackson is delaying her "Unbreakable" tour, saying Wednesday that she and her husband are planning their family and that she is under doctor's orders to rest.

The 49-year-old singer announced in a video on her Twitter account Wednesday morning that there has been a "sudden change" to the second leg of her tour, which started in August.

She didn't say she was pregnant with her first child, only that she needed to rest up.

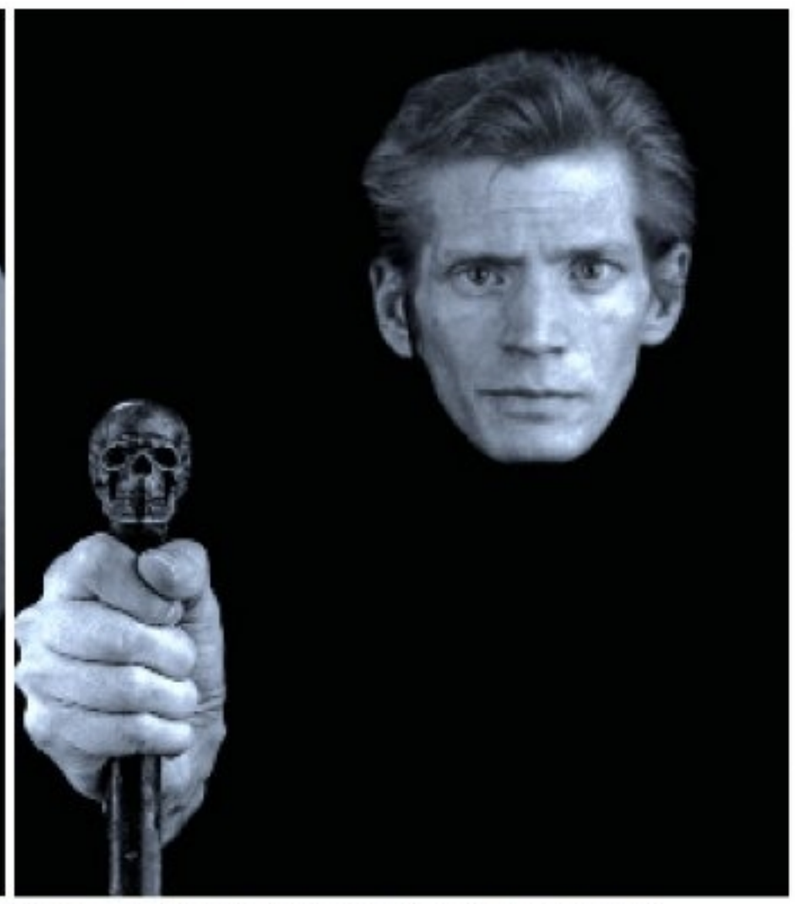
Jackson married Wissam Al Mana in 2012. In the video clip, Jackson thanked her fans for their love and loyalty. She went on to thank her dancers, her band and her crew.

"Once again, thank you to all the fans for your love, your undying love; your loyalty that means so much to me," Jackson said. "It's been a long journey and you guys have been there each and every step of the way and I really do appreciate that ... I will see you soon."

On Dec. 24, Jackson announced that she was postponing her tour until the spring to have an unspecified surgical procedure. She had been next scheduled to perform in early January in Denver.

She said no further details on her medical condition would be disclosed. Two weeks later, Jackson announced rescheduled tour dates after she took some time to recover from the surgical procedure. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Janet Jackson's comment that she's planning her family has fuelled speculation about a possible pregnancy. AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Artist Robert Mapplethorpe, right, who died in 1989, shocked sensibilities with his images of gay sexuality. CONTRIBUTED

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

The photographer who told Americans 'Made you look!'

THE SHOW: Mapplethorpe: Look at the Pictures (HBO)
THE MOMENT: The self-portraits

Halfway through this documentary, the late artist Robert Mapplethorpe — who was both renowned and reviled for photographing images of gay sexuality — tells a journalist the story behind his most controversial self-portrait.

After photographing a graphic sex act, Mapplethorpe recalls, one of its subjects challenged him: "You wouldn't want to be considered somebody who exploits people and isn't able to exploit himself."

So Mapplethorpe put on a vest, chaps, and boots, and (bear with me here) inserted a bullwhip into his anus. He posed with his back to the camera — then turned his head around and levelled his gaze right at us, the viewers.

"Most people would say that's a horrible image of yourself," the journalist remarks.

"No," Mapplethorpe replies. "That's a good one."

The title of this doc is a challenge, and it keeps challenging us throughout — both to see what Mapplethorpe saw, and to understand why he needed us to. Many of the images are squirm-inducing,

"Empathy requires understanding, and the first step toward understanding something is to look at it.

and the interviewees acknowledge that.

But as Mapplethorpe insists, "Sexuality like I portray it is very much (happening) today. It will take a few years before people realize that," and, "What happens here is indicative of America, finally."

In other words, if many people are doing something, it can't be inherently wrong. Empathy requires understanding, and the first step toward understanding something is to look at it, unblinkingly.

In his final self-portrait, Mapplethorpe holds a cane topped with a silver skull. He's dying of AIDS, and he faces that, also without blinking.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

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Why kids will love summer camp

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Beyond fun and sun, here's what makes day camp so great

Eoin Weldon

With spring just underway, many parents have already started the search for their kid's summer day camp. Picking a fitting camp for your child is one thing but understanding why camps benefit your child is another.

First off, day camps offer your child an opportunity to develop physically. "The big focus for us is exposing the children to sports. It's a great chance for kids to try an array of new sports and see what they might like to pursue in the future," says Ben Gallaher, coordinator of the green and gold sports camps held at the University of Alberta. Be it a sports camp or one devoted to art or cooking, daily activities are always integrated into the schedule to ensure everyone stays active throughout the day.

Secondly, a trip to camp should allow your child to discover their personal identity. So they didn't excel on the basketball court but instead realized they were very good at science. Each child at camp goes on a journey during which they become more familiar with themselves and their skills and talents.

Campers are also instilled with confidence from the whole experience by mixing with others, playing sports and games and ultimately making decisions. "We see the children develop an interest in sports, which is due to our excellent staff of varsity athletes and university students. By the end of the week the kids have more purpose about them and are eager to find out how they can continue to play the sport they are best at," added Gallaher.

In today's overprotective parenting world, children can sometimes be over coddled, so it's helpful for their development if they have a certain amount of independence. This confidence and independence will be bolstered by a sense of belonging to a tight group, not to mention the future friends your child will make along the way.

> **By the end of the week the kids have more purpose about them and are eager to find out how they can continue to play the sport they are best at.**
>
> Ben Gallaher, coordinator of the green and gold sports camps held at the University of Alberta

Another modern day problem that day camps can help remedy is our children's infatuation with technology. Excessive social media use and/or video gaming can take the innocence out of growing up so give your child a taste of what your own childhood was like. This means lots of carefree and active time outdoors and interacting with others in person rather than online or by phone. To top it off parents will have that little bit more time to themselves to enjoy the sunnier months so consider doing your child and yourself a favour this summer.

Summer camps help to boost your child's confidence and independence while fostering close friendships. ISTOCK

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Your essential daily news

San Fran man builds box in friend's place to get around high rents

MEET THE CONDO

The Champagne of developments

CONTRIBUTED

Project overview

Remington's Champagne is an exclusive residence attractively positioned along the Bow River in the community of Quarry Park. Champagne's architecture is inspired by the French countryside and features natural stone and steep pitched roof lines with 10-foot tray ceilings.

Housing amenities

This luxurious project features extra-large storage lockers, extra-large underground parking stalls, a carwash bay in the parkade, bicycle storage and a garden courtyard with private access to the river pathway system. The landscaping surrounding Champagne contributes to its air of refinement.

Location and transit

Quarry Park is conveniently located in the inner city just minutes from downtown and is easily accessible to major roadways including Crowchild Trail, Glenmore Trail and Deerfoot Trail. The area is home to BRT route 302 to downtown and a future LRT station.

In the neighbourhood

The area is home to a 50-acre natural reserve alongside the Bow River. It's five minutes to The Quarry Market featuring Co-op grocery and liquor, Original Joes, The Park, Merle Norman, Starbucks and many others. The new Remington YMCA features a running track, swimming pool and library. The Childcare Development Centre opens July 2016. KRISTA SYLVESTER/FOR METRO

NEED TO KNOW

What: Champagne
Builder: Remington Development Corp.
Architect: Gibbs Gage
Location: Quarry Park
Building: Five-storey, pre-cast insulated concrete construction; two elevators per building
Sizes: From 875 square feet to 2280 square feet
Pricing: From the $350s to the $690s
Suites: One-bed, two-bed and penthouse options
Status: Immediate possession
Sales centre: 350 Quarry Park Blvd S.E.
Phone 403-930-6900
Email: info@remingtoncorp.com

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BROJECTS: IN THE HOUSE

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REAL ESTATE

What's hot on the market

KRISTA SYLVESTER/FOR METRO

1 GRAND OPENING

The Armory by Cove Properties: It's finally time to catch a glimpse inside the sophisticated condo project, The Armory, located in Currie Barracks.

CHECK OUT THE GRAND OPENING THIS SATURDAY IN THE SALES CENTRE LOCATED AT J5, 2953 BATTLEFORD AVE S.W.

2 STILL SELLING

916 Memorial by Sable Developments: These unique 37-unit ReNew condos are perfectly located across from Peace Bridge in Sunnyside. One-bedroom units from the $200,000s; two-bedroom suites in the $300,000s.

SHOW SUITE AT 916 MEMORIAL DR. N.W.

3 NOW SELLING

GLAS by Avalon: Don't miss your first chance to see what GLAS has to offer with one-bedroom, two-bedroom and three-bedroom units close to the eclectic lifestyle of Marda Loop.

CHECK OUT THE PRESENTATION CENTRE AT 102, 1808 27 AVE. S.W OR VISIT LIVINGGLAS.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION.

PROJECTS

DIY: Start seedlings in a newspaper

Get a head start on your herb garden by planting seeds in pots made with recycled newspapers.

Step 1
Gather your supplies. You'll need:
- Newspapers
- A soup can
- Seeds
- Soil

Step 2
Fold a single newspaper page in half lengthwise. Place soup can on bottom end of the folded newspaper, approximately two inches from the cut edge of paper. Roll the newspaper snugly around the soup can to make a cylinder.

Step 3
Fold in the end paper on the soup can, starting from the seam. Fold and press firmly inward to create the base of the pot.

Step 4
Remove can from the paper. You've made a pot! Now fold the top edge of the pot in to make a rim.

Step 5
Fill pots with moistened soil and add seeds as directed on seed package. Place on waterproof tray in a sunny spot. Water.

When you are ready to plant the seedlings they can be placed directly into the soil.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Gardening is the surest way to make it feel like spring. DEBRA NORTON/FOR TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Will your soon-to-be home be fraught with problems?

PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT

Eager buyers who waive a home inspection to close a deal do so at their peril

ALEX SCHULDTZ

Brent Jolly

From leaky roofs and wet basements to plumbing problems and faulty foundations, Alan Carson has seen the entire spectrum of defects and damage that can haunt a home during his nearly 40 years in the home inspection business.

"I've never seen a perfect house," said Carson, president of Carson Dunlop, a home inspection consulting firm he co-founded in 1978. "Every good home inspection looks at several hundred components, so it's not just a quick cosmetic review."

Key areas that require reviewing in every inspection, Carson says, include the home's structure, the furnace and air conditioning, the plumbing, roofing, insulation and ventilation. And that's just the start.

"Home inspections help consumers understand what they're getting into and how to help them protect their investment," said Carson.

But with bidding wars becoming even more commonplace in some Canadian markets, more and more new homebuyers are choosing to forego a home inspection because it offers a chance to get a leg up on landing what they believe to be their perfect property.

Although it's one way to help quickly close a deal, it's a strategy bound to backfire over the long-term, says Canadian contractor Mike Holmes.

"It's by far the biggest mistake 'boom buyers' can make," said Holmes. "Buying by illusion, rather than education, means consumers are likely to walk into a world of pain."

About a year and a half ago, Holmes and his crew were hired by a young couple, who had recently purchased a home near High Park in Toronto. With multiple offers on the table for the property, the buyers decided to waive the home inspection condition in their offer to help put them over the top.

The couple got the property. What they also got, after Holmes' crew did its own inspection, was a list that contained about $150,000 worth of problems from the ground floor on up.

It's just one example of a cautionary tale that many homebuyers are learning the hard way, Holmes says.

One of the best tips Holmes offers consumers preparing to put themselves in the crosshairs of a real-estate bidding war is for them to do their homework — earlier, rather than later.

To start, he says consumers should ask home inspectors lots of questions before hiring them. Clients should know how long an inspector has been performing home inspections and what they were doing professionally before inspecting homes.

The best home inspectors, Holmes says, often have previous experience in construction, contracting or the trades. It's an important fact to consider because Ontario does not yet have a formal licensing program in place for home inspectors.

Mark Weisleder, a real estate lawyer, recommends consumers take the time to be present when they get a home inspection done. It's a good idea, he says, because they can ask their inspector to explain potential problems to them on site, in language they can understand.

Another safeguard Weisleder recommends for homebuyers is to get to know as much about a home and its neighbourhood before making any offers.

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BEST BANG FOR YOUR BUCK

Renovate strategically

When it comes time to renovate a home, be smart about which fixer-upper projects you undertake.

Some updates will add extra value to a property come listing day, but others might fail to offer a return on investment.

"When you're doing renovations, a lot of the time they're for yourself and your own enjoyment, but that doesn't necessarily translate into something that's good for resale," said Brendan Powell, a realtor with the Brel Team.

"Yes bathrooms and kitchens are always where you get the biggest bang for your buck, but you don't always get more than you spend. Ask yourself, is it just an ugly kitchen or is it a complete disaster? You have to look at the house as a totality. If you're going to put in a brand new kitchen but the rest of the house looks like a disaster, you can't just do the kitchen. It's a slippery slope. Sometimes it's best to leave ugly things be. There's no point doing a lipstick makeover."

Homeowner Sharon Giraud, 49, recently began prepping her property for resale, to be listed this month. Giraud and her husband will be experiencing what it's like to live in other parts of the world, beginning with Malaysia.

"Our home-reno plans started a couple of years ago because we knew our exit date from Canada," she said. "We did things with that in mind."

The couple hopes to fetch top dollar for the house they've lived in for 16 years to help fund the next chapter of their lives as semi-retired, global-trotting renters.

The touch-ups are minor, with the goal of accenting a unique property tailored to professionals instead of families, as it features home offices, low-maintenance gardens, modern bathroom fixtures, and plenty of space for entertaining friends, including a pool.

Small improvements can work wonders toward making a good first impression, says professional stager and interior decorator Red Barrinuevo, of Redesign4more.

"Fix the scratches and leaky faucets, the cracked tiles and the grout issues," Barrinuevo advised.

"Those things make a big difference. You don't want to be handing your to-do list to the new owners. They can always go somewhere else with nothing to do."

Sometimes the biggest payoffs are fast and cheap.

"Painting is almost always worth it," said Powell. "Paint is cheap, easy and quick…"

For yards in need of a makeover, bring in inexpensive mulch for a clean look.

"Make it as easy as possible for people to see what the space is," said Powell.

"De-clutter so that the rooms look big and they can see past the stuff." TANYA ENBERG

Creating additional usable living space can help home sellers harness top dollar. ISTOCK

Colin Gillies and his wife, Sophia Jong, have added both a basement apartment and a third floor Airbnb suite to their Toronto home over the years to help cover their mortgage and other home-ownership expenses. CONTRIBUTED

Home buying the innovative way

REAL ESTATE

Ways to offset some of the costs of home ownership

Camilla Cornell

Colin Gillies has always regarded his house in a neighbourhood of downtown Toronto as an asset that will pay for itself.

"When we moved in, our kids were nine and 13, and we needed more space," he said. But the house he and his wife bought had more room than they needed, so they added a basement apartment. That has helped cover the cost of their mortgage for the past 30 years.

When Gillies developed a rheumatic disorder that required him to quit work in 2011, he and his wife added a small kitchen to the spacious third story of their home and hung out their shingle on Airbnb. The extra $125 a night they earn has helped ensure they don't feel the pinch as much from having their income basically cut in half.

"Last year, we brought in about $27,000," said Gillies.

The bonus? "We've really enjoyed having conversations and spending time with the people," he said. "My health was such that we couldn't travel. This way, the world comes to our doorstep."

As Gillies can attest, getting — and keeping — a foothold on the property ladder sometimes requires a little inventiveness.

Here are a few ideas to get you started:

Team up with a friend or relative

A 2014 survey by TD Bank found a shift towards non-traditional ways of purchasing property. About four in 10 Canadians said they thought buying a property with friends or family members would be a great way to get started.

The scenarios vary, according to Collette Skelly, a real estate agent with Real Estate Homeward. She has dealt with several pairs of friends looking for three-bedroom houses.

"They each take a room and they usually plan to rent the third bedroom to another friend," she said. In other cases, families seek a separate space in the house for an aging relative who is contributing cash to help them make the purchase.

But such agreements shouldn't be entered into lightly, says Pat Giles, associate vice-president, real estate secured lending at for TD-Canada Trust. Before embarking on such a venture, he advises, agree on a budget and down payment, as well as the key characteristics you want in a property, and what you're willing to compromise on.

In addition, most experts agree it's wise to write up a co-ownership agreement that stipulates who pays for what, and what happens if either party can no longer carry the mortgage, or one person wants out.

Launch an Airbnb

According to Aaron Zifkin, Airbnb's country manager for Canada, 82 per cent of the company's hosts around the world "share only the home in which they live, and 47 per cent say the income has helped them stay in their homes."

The downside, said Gillies: "I don't know if I would rely on Airbnb to top up a mortgage. Unlike having a tenant — nothing is guaranteed." But if you simply want to be less house poor than you otherwise would be, it's a great alternative, he said. And it's flexible. "If we have friends coming from out of town or we just want to take a break, we just update the calendar."

Take on a tenant

According to rentboard.ca, the average amount landlords get for a rental basement apartment in Toronto is $867 per month.

"You may have to invest a bit more upfront for the house and the renovations," said Susan Asquith, a real estate agent with Bosley Real Estate, Ltd. "But in the long term, it should pay off."

When seeking a house with a rental space likely to attract good tenants, consider the ceiling height and windows. Said Asquith: "No one wants to live in the dark." If there's already a separate entrance, you'll save the $12,000-plus it would cost to dig one. And accessibility to shops, restaurants and public transit are selling points for potential tenants.

Host a student

Rates to house a foreign student in your home vary between about $500 and $800 a month, depending on the quality of the room, and whether you feed your student as well.

It's not chump change, said Skelly. And it can help new homeowners manage the cost of their mortgage. But hosts should be aware there's work involved.

You're required to help students figure out how to get around the city and troubleshoot for them when necessary. And you must be tolerant of different habits and customs.

Want to learn more? Check out canadianhomestayagency.com and homes-abroad-international.com, to name a couple.

Opt for a 'transitional' neighbourhood

Investing in an up-and-coming area can allow you to get into the market and could well pay off big in the long run.

"Leslieville (in Toronto) was once considered a transitional neighbourhood," said Skelly. "And the Junction (in Toronto) used to be a disaster and all of a sudden it's the coolest place in town."

Tech tools to help find new digs

Marc Saltzman

If you're like most Canadians looking to buy a home, you might circle a house for sale advertised in a newspaper, arrange to have an agent send listings in your desired area, or perhaps you'll browse properties online.

You might also consider adding some more advanced tech tools to your arsenal.

"Buyers are increasingly savvy, and they're discovering new and exciting ways to research a property and its community before seeing it in person," said Lahav Reznik, broker and managing partner of Forest Hill Real Estate Inc. Brokerage.

"In conjunction with using a professional, these tools can provide a clearer overall picture of the property and its neighbourhood to help Canadians find their dream home."

In fact, many of these emerging technologies are Canadian-made.

Do the drone

Richard Foltys, founder of Richard Emmanuel Studios, says drone photography is becoming "extremely" popular among those who want a bird's eye view of a prospective property.

"We're getting more requests than ever from real estate agents and private sellers to shoot above and around larger properties," said Foltys.

"Homebuyers can get a great perspective of the property layout, an idea of how close they are to parks, walking distance to main streets, and the proximity of their neighbours," explained Foltys.

But these still images and videos need to be shot legally and responsibly, cautioned Foltys. Commercial drone photographers need to apply for a permit, but both drone photographers and hobbyists need to respect people's privacy and also not fly over anyone for safety reasons.

Foltys also uses a drone inside of a home as a virtual walkthrough.

"We can also provide an experience of what it's like walking through the house by taking the propellers off a drone and using the camera, with image stabilization, to shoot a smooth walk around inside," he said.

Richard Emmanuel Studios drone photography. RICHARD FOLTYS

Virtual tours

Why settle for flat 2D images of a home you're interested in when you can take a virtual tour on a smartphone, tablet, laptop or desktop?

That's the idea behind VR Listing, Inc., a service that delivers virtual tours of homes for potential buyers. The company also operates in New York and Barbados, says Aaron Tench, the company's 25-year-old chief executive officer.

"With VR Listing, agents can show their clients 10 houses in 10 minutes — with life-like realism and feel — without needing to leave their own home, saving both time and money," explained Tench. "We aim to change the way real estate is marketed globally and allow people to view properties from other countries."

A serial entrepreneur with a history in the tech start-up space, Tench says he and his partner, Jon James Atyeo, were monitoring the Canadian real estate sector and discovered the solutions for marketing properties were simply outdated.

The process begins with a multi-point scan of the interior of the property. A sophisticated scanning camera utilizes both high-definition optics and calibrated lasers to digitally map out the interior of a space. Several image points are collected, and this information is digitally assembled to create a 3D rendering of the space. Using the information, a visual floor plan is created, along with a second schematic floor plan (with exact measurements of room sizes).

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Showcase new life in your home

For today's buyer, the 'appeal' factor goes far beyond the curb. WEST BLUE MEDIA

Give buyers the chance to imagine living there, says Toronto luxury stager Anne Bourne. JONATHAN NICHOLLS

REVAMPED HOME

Stage your space to turn it into someone's dream home

Tanya Enberg

Carefully curated furnishings, lovely accent pillows, masterful lighting and clever pops of colour can shift a tired-looking space into a dream home for potential buyers while bringing in top dollar for sellers.

Calling in home stagers and their styling tricks to work their magic before listing is becoming the norm — a trend blooming, in part, from the around-the-clock rotation of reality-style home reno shows, each one culminating with the big reveal of a completely revamped, drool-worthy property.

"In the past few years staging has taken off like wildfire," said Toronto luxury stager Anne Bourne of StagingWorks.

"We've gotten $80,000 over list price and even more importantly, they're selling in a day. It's hard to know if it's the staging or the market, but I have to think the staging definitely has an impact."

Gone are the days when simply scrubbing the interior, cutting the lawn, and plopping a few pretty plants on the porch will do before pitching the 'for sale' sign.

For today's buyer, the 'appeal' factor goes far beyond the curb.

Enter the home stager to amp up the photo-ready treatment.

The goal of staging is to give buyers the chance to experience a space in a way that allows them to imagine living there.

It is about maximizing small rooms, reworking awkward spaces, choosing great art, lighting, accessories and furniture size strategically. While that may sound easy enough, in reality it can take an expert eye. Essentially, the images homeowners ogle in magazines often don't carry over into their own living quarters, say the pros.

Home stager and interior decorator Red Barrinuevo can make any space, from a 600-square-foot downtown condo to 6,000 square-foot house, pop.

"Every square foot counts," Barrinuevo said.

"Everything needs to showcase as much space as it can for homebuyers. They need to know exactly what they're going to do with the space and how they are going to do the layout with their furniture. When you walk into a house that's not staged and not de-cluttered, it's a challenge for most buyers. They think, 'How will my couch fit here?'"

Common rules for staging include removing TVs and replacing them with art and storing all personal items and mementos.

"No. 1, remove all of the little bits of clutter that we all have," advised Bourne.

"The stacks of paper, the tiny paper weights beside the lamp, any little knickknack things people tend to collect all should be gone. I'd rather see nothing on end tables than a lot of little things. Just stick one vase on your coffee table or three great coffee table books," she said.

"Keep it simple. The whole idea is to let people envision themselves in the house. People want to see the space, where they're going to cook or bake or whatever it is they do, but nobody wants to know what shampoo you're using."

THE PRICE FOR THE PROS

- A consultation of a condo of less than 1,000-square-feet will cost about $200-$300 and take up to three hours.
- The stager will advise on furniture placement and art, lighting and best accessories to showcase.
- Staging a 700-square-foot condo typically costs between $2,500 and $3000.
- A consultation of a mid-sized home will cost about $300-$350.
- Staging an occupied 3,000-square-foot home is about $2000-$2,500 on average.
- Staging a vacant property can run $4,500 and up.

Time to spring into staging your home

OPEN HOUSE

As you prep and primp your home to sell, here are a few accessories to freshen up your space. The best part is, you can take all these fab new finds with you to decorate your next dwelling.

Lisa Evans

Drape a colourful throw
An artfully arranged blanket can cover an unfortunate blemish on the couch or simply add a chic dash of colour to a neutral room. Cambie Yellow & White Blanket, $100, available at 1535A Queen St. W., Toronto, or visit cambiedesign.com.

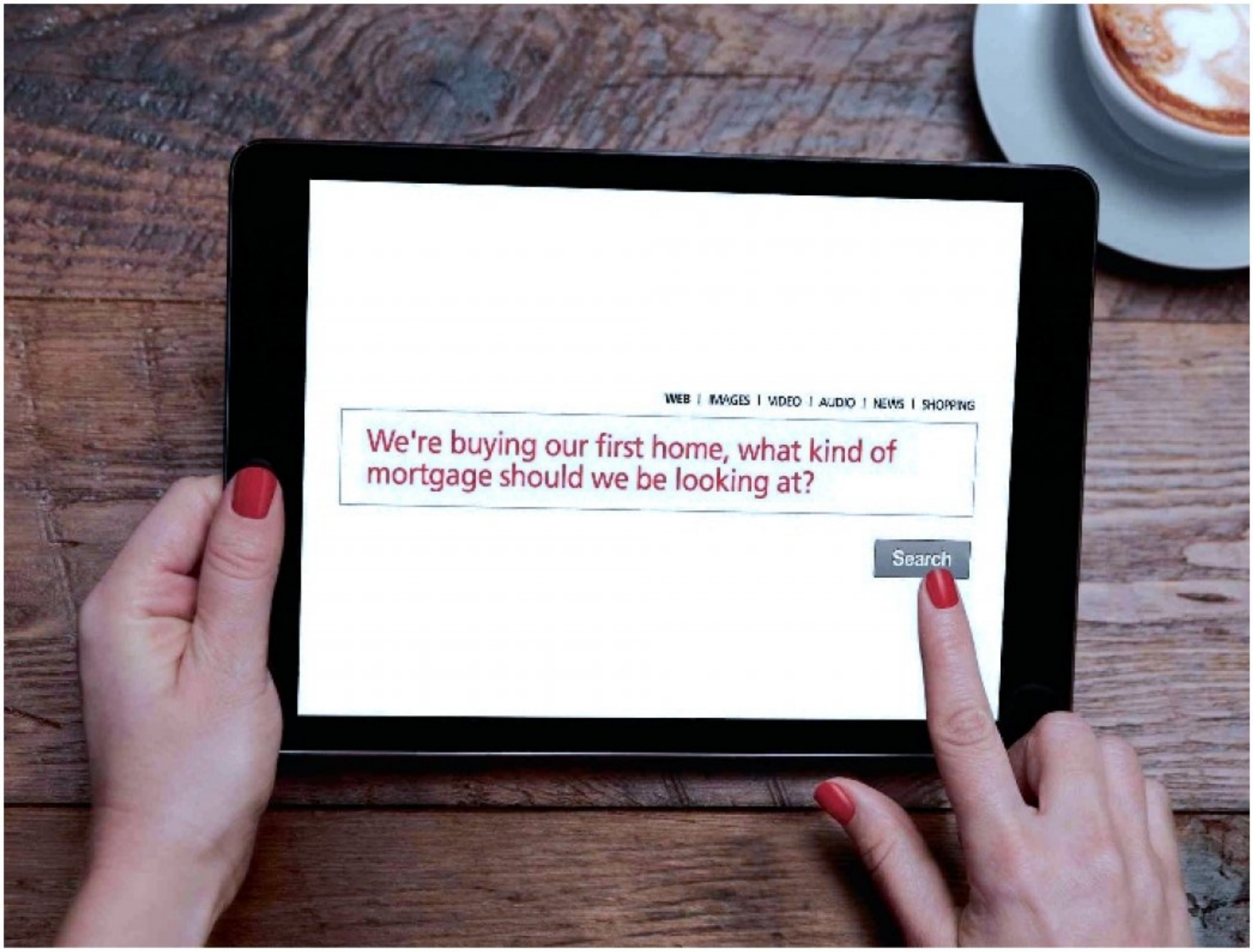
Add some greenery
Send the knick knacks packing, but highlight an empty spot, on a coffee or side table, with an arty flowerpot, like this concrete gem. Marbled Icosahedron Geometric Planter by Double L Decor, $20, available at Gifted, 181 Park St., Waterloo, Ont. and ReChic Studio & Design, 1148 Queen St., New Dundee, Ont., or visit doubleldecor.ca.

Set the table with style
You don't have to pull out the good china and silverware, but perhaps dress up the dining table a little bit with a stylish tablecloth and a vase of fresh, in-season blooms. Garden Gate Tablecloth by Samantha Pynn for Simons Maison, starting at $24, available at Simons stores, visit simons.ca.

Toss a playful cushion (or two!) on the couch
Throw cushions are a great way to add some colour and style to a tired sofa or to your favourite, well-worn, comfy armchair. Pink Peony Stripe Pillow Cover, $39.50, available at Chapters and Indigo stores, visit indigo.ca.

Add a little ambiance to your outdoor decor
Is your patio table set up on the back deck? Help a new buyer picture summer fiestas with a few carefully placed items, like these lanterns (don't forget to add a tea light). Blue glass lanterns by PC Home, $12 to $16, available at Loblaw stores across Canada.

Brighten your bedroom with colourful bedding
Deflated duvet? Fluff up your tired set and accent pillows with cheerful new covers, like these ones designed by Sarah Richardson. Pomegranate Ribbon Stripe Ensemble (sheets, duvet and Euro sham sets, and accent pillow), US$200, visit sarahrichardsondesign.com.



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Jaclyn Tersigni

Technology is constantly pushing the boundaries of what's possible, and consumers expect the best. In response, developers are pulling out all the stops to win prospective homebuyers. Houses and condos are more innovative than ever, incorporating new technologies, amenities and upgrades for easier, "greener" and more connected lifestyles.

Going green

Imagine a home that creates more energy than it uses — and saves you hundreds of dollars on your utility bill. Minto Group Inc. has built that green dream, called a Net Zero Energy Ready home, in its Arcadia development in Kanata, Ont. Billed as one of the country's most energy efficient homes, the "Killarney" is a 2,406-square-foot, three-bedroom house that blends technology with innovative design and materials to reduce home energy consumption by a whopping 65 per cent.

Its heating system is twice as efficient as a natural gas furnace, advanced insulation and triple pane windows help the house retain warmth. Its energy monitoring system helps the homeowner monitor their energy use.

The most impressive part of the home is its roof, which can accommodate solar panels to produce as much energy as the home is expected to consume in a 12-month period.

The home is open for public viewing while Minto constructs four townhomes with similar energy targets in the Arcadia community, to be sold upon completion. Arcadia is being used as a test site for future Net Zero Energy developments in other communities. The Killarney model starts at $452,900.

minto.com

Fancy amenities

Developers of new condominiums are getting creative when it comes to amenities. A new 38-storey residential building by Capital Developments and Freed Developments at 150 Redpath Ave. in Toronto will boast a 24-hour in-house diner to serve both residents and passersby. Residents can order room service, as well as have food brought up to one of the building's other attractive features — a rooftop pool and deck.

redpathcondos.com

With 25,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor amenities, Lighthouse Tower by Daniels Corporation — a 45-storey condo to be built at Queens Quay East and Lower Jarvis Street, overlooking Toronto's waterfront — will have the typical fitness facilities and party spaces, but also promises some fairly unique bonuses. Sophisticated home cooks and kitchen beginners alike can take advantage of the Kitchen Library, a space stocked with shared appliances for use, as well as cooking seminars and training. The Jam Studio will have gear and space for musicians of all levels to practise and play, while the Arts and Crafts Studio will provide opportunities for artists to create, learn and enjoy exhibits, programmed by Artscape.

danielswaterfrontcondos.ca

Big sound

FutureDreamHome, an annual feature at the National Home Show, showcases the best of design, architecture and innovative technologies in a model home for attendees to be inspired by. This year's installation — designed and constructed by Michael Upshall of Probuilt Design and Build company and Darren Sanger-Smith of residential design firm Structured Creations — featured North America's first ever installation of a completely invisible, state-of-the-art surround sound system.

In the home's recreational room, audio designer Keith Vanderkley used a series of speakers from Dolby, Amina Technologies and Triad Speakers to create rich sound that seems to emanate from all angles. The speakers are entirely invisible, hidden from sight behind the screen and in the ceilings. Listeners feel as though they are in the centre of the sound; background conversations in a movie scene sound as though they're happening behind you and a rain shower sounds as though it's coming from above.

probuilt.ca

The new Northwest

If you're looking for a place in Calgary to see your dream home brought to life, look Northwest.

The area is burgeoning with homes perfect for young families looking to find a place that suits the new Calgarian lifestyle — a place where they can take in the beautiful prairie landscapes while enjoying all the conveniences of city living.

Symons Gate is a new community of homes in Calgary's Northwest that was designed for home buyers who are looking for the best of both worlds.

"Today's young homebuyers and families are looking for a place where they can sit back and enjoy the simple life in the prairie landscape," says Jessie Seymour, senior customer relations manager at Brookfield Residential. "At the same time, they work in the city and want access to all the good things about city living."

Symons Gate will have those conveniences and amenities woven into its fabric, in a tight-knit community that makes everyone feel welcome, Seymour explains.

Families will have a lot to see and do at Symons Gate, whether they're looking for the necessities, or a weekend of fun. Get out your golf clubs and enjoy a morning at the local golf course. Shop at nearby Beacon Hill or Creekside shopping centres, or pick up something on your way home at the Walmart around the corner.

There are abundant parks and green spaces to explore nearby, including a four-acre environmental reserve that will connect to a wet pond and Nose Hill Creek. Central Park will be nearby too, with its playground area, picnic niche and artful landscaping.

Those who work downtown will be able to get their exercise and commute at the same time by biking from home to downtown on greenway paths.

Your dream home is waiting for you at Symons Gate in northwest Calgary, with a variety of homes for every homebuyer, lifestyle and budget. Symons Gate is working with long-term partners Albi Homes, Brookfield Residential, Morrison Homes and Jayman Built to build high-quality, expertly crafted homes.

Home sizes and types include apartment-style condos, townhomes, single family homes, luxury homes and everything in between.

"Symon's Gate is a welcoming, diverse and convenient community," says Seymour.

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Golf can be a lifelong love

TAKE A SWING

Rewarding challenges await on the city's courses

Eoin Weldon

Not many sports can boast golf's rich offerings. You can start playing it as a child and continue to do so well into your twilight years. A walk through wonderfully manicured scenery is your reward for each round. A novice on their first day can get as much enjoyment and satisfaction as a seasoned pro who has played for years.

Yes, the game would test the patience of saint but it can also deliver moments of unrivaled joy. Regardless of your golfing level rewarding challenges await on the many fine courses dotted around Calgary.

"Just get out there," says Jim Finney, vice president of the Calgary Golf Association. "I've talked to so many people through the years who have said, 'I hit one good shot and I was hooked'. Don't try to always play perfectly because in golf it's just not possible."

Golf is weather dependent, so between April and October Calgary's fairways and greens come alive.

Despite the economic downturn the beloved game has not really been affected. "I've talked to number of professionals across Calgary and membership numbers appear to be stable," added Finney. "Premier events like the LPGA event in Priddis and the Shaw Charity Classic help expose people to the game at the highest level and that gets them fired up and really attracted to the game."

And what else can golf add to your life? "It teaches you life lessons," Finney continued. "There is etiquette and you have to be polite. And from a parent's perspective I'd rather my son hang out on a golf course for 6 hours than outside the 7/11 on the corner."

RULES

Clubs: You play with drivers, irons, wedges and a putter.
In golf, negative scores are good. So two under par (-2) is better than two over par (+2).
There are 18 holes and each hole has a par ranging from 3 to 5 strokes.
Making par is when you get the ball in the hole in the listed par amount. So making a 3 on a par 3 would be a par.
A birdie is one under par for the hole
A bogey is one over par for the hole
An eagle is two under par for the hole
A double bogey is two over par for the hole

Stretching to avoid impact of golf's injuries

A little know-how can help golfers avoid unnecessary injury. Considering the number of times a swing is repeated during a game, it's not surprising that the season often ends early for those who are not physically prepared.
Below is a simple shoulder stretching technique that can help prevent or reduce the impact of injuries:
1. Hold the shaft of a golf club vertically behind your back.
2. Gently pull the club up with your top hand until you feel a slight stretch in the shoulder of your lower arm. Hold for 15 seconds.
3. Gently pull the club down with your bottom hand until you feel a stretch in the top shoulder and arm.
4. Hold for 15 seconds.
5. Reverse hand positions and repeat.

You can start playing it as a child and continue to do so well into your twilight years. ISTOCK

Can golf teach you life lessons? The rules are all about etiquette and you have to be polite. ISTOCK

Golfing environmentally friendly

Golf can be seen as a bucolic walk in the park, with players at one with nature, but golf courses can also cause strain on local ecosystems. However, many golf courses around Calgary have gone — or are going — green. Water management, weed control and the maintenance of natural areas are high priority.

Courses are assessed across six categories: outreach and education; chemical use reduction and safety; water quality management; environmental planning; water conservation; and wildlife and habitat management. The prestigious Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program has certified six golf courses in Calgary: Calgary Elks Lodge, Calgary Golf and Country Club, Country Hills, Earl Grey, Glencoe Golf and Country club and Willow Park Golf and Country Club.

Water management, weed control and the maintenance of natural areas are high priority for city courses. ISTOCK

The award winning education and certification program enables golf courses to protect the environment and preserve the natural heritage of golf.

Calgary Elks Lodge and Country Club received certification in 2015. Superintendent Cory Brown says they have reduced their maintained areas by 35 per cent, allowing wildlife habitats to emerge, birdhouses have been set up around the property and a volunteer biologist speaks regularly on the benefits of bats to the course. The changes make sense environmentally but they are economically smart, too.

"The financial benefits have been achieved by having to irrigate less area," says Brown. "Less money spent on fertilizers because we do not feed the natural areas. We now mow a lot less turf, therefore less wear and tear on mowing equipment, and fuel costs have been reduced. We have also seen a bit of a reduction in labour costs."

Other gains will take longer to assess, says Brown, but he's in no doubt of the overall beneficial nature of the changes.

"I believe that the entire membership, the community and our guests will definitely see our golf course as a great place to play golf and at the same time share our space with many species of wildlife. Those who may not have a positive attitude about golf courses and the environment will actually see the great environmental benefits that golf courses provide," says Brown.

WILL MCGUIRK

THE RISE IN GOLF TECHNOLOGY

Whether you're a weekend duffer or a little more seasoned, everyone's looking to shave strokes off their golf game.

That's led to the rise in golf technology.

"Golf is a highly personalized game and golf is 80 per cent mental," explained Steaven Leavitt, owner of Golf Traders. "If you are using something that makes you feel more confident or comfortable in your game, it can help."

Leavitt referenced three technological advances:
• **Game Golf,** a device that you attach a sensor to your belt and another on the end of each club, which provides you with information about your distance after each shot, as well as tracking and displaying your game;
• **Swingbyte,** a mobile swing analysis that you attached to the shaft of your club, which works with your smart phone or tablet; and
• **FlightScope:** Golf Traders is moving this month and the new space will include a top-of-the-line Flight Scope that enables golfers to test clubs and receive real-time data.
But in the end, no device will be the magic bullet.
"There are gadgets that can help you hone your game and lose strokes, but lessons and repetition are going to be the best solutions," Leavitt said. "You're the one that still has to swing the club."

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Where to hit the links in Calgary

KEEN ON GREENS

A few tips for beginners and experienced golfers alike

Eoin Weldon

If you are just starting out at golf and fear feeling out of place on the big courses try a local pitch and putt or par 3 course first. These scaled-down courses serve as ideal learning grounds for any budding golfer and are great for refining your short game.

For experienced players Calgary's many fine and challenging courses should keep all player types satisfied and hungry for more.

Here's our picks for the top 5 courses in the area.

1. Heritage Pointe Golf Course
This facility has 27 holes and is a short drive south of the downtown. It is known for its scenic views and extra quick and well-maintained greens. Price: $55 to $118.

2. Hamptons Golf Club
This incredibly tricky and challenging course, located in Calgary's northwest, was once exclusive but is now open to the public. Novices beware: the demanding fairways and heavily bunkered greens could make this course a tad too difficult for you. Price: $50 to $120.

3. Silver Springs Golf and Country Club
Golfers of ranging ability levels face a stern test at Silver Springs in the city's northwest. Awaiting you is a 300-acre course rife with beautifully maintained peaks, valleys and truly challenging elevation shifts.

4. Silvertip Golf Course
Silvertip is just shy of an hour drive from the city but it doesn't disappoint. Located in Canmore to the west of the city, the course is riddled with interesting and inventive holes that will test the skill levels of all golfers. Price: $95 to $165

5. The Links of GlenEagles
Nestled beside the Bow River Valley in the town of Cochrane is this magnificent 18-hole course. Tight fairways and severe elevations mean accuracy is everything when driving off the tee. Price: $29 to $109.

PLAYING TIPS

The drive to win: Balance is key off the tee so keep your back straight and your eyes on the ball. Finally, clear your mind and relax your body before you swing.

Nice and easy does it: With any shot don't try and hit it to the moon as this can often affect accuracy. Your goal is avoid the rough first off and then to hit the fairway or the green. Focus on achieving your goal.

Head down and wait for the sound: When putting try not to look up too early. Decide your line and length beforehand, put your head down, swing and wait to hear the lovely sound of the ball entering the cup.

Calgary has everything from pitch and putt courses, to the more challenging courses. Something to keep all player types happy. ISTOCK

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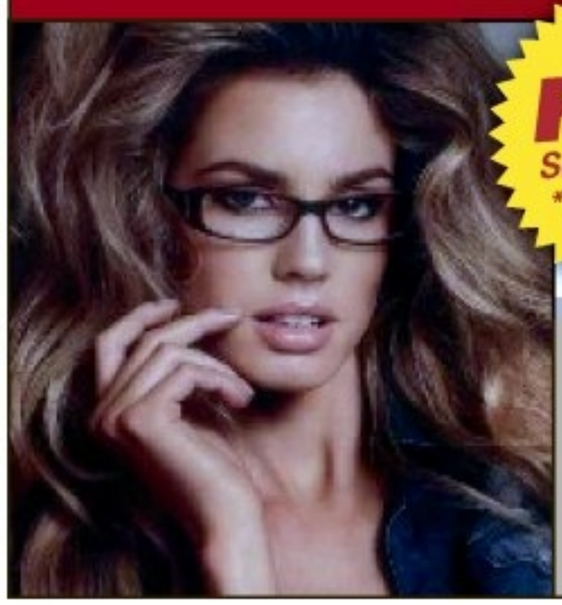

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metro SPORTS

With two more home runs Wednesday, Robinson Cano became the first Seattle player to hit four homers in the first three games of the season

Cup fever could be dissipating

NHL

Survey shows playoffs are trending away from must-see

Cam Tucker
Metro | Vancouver

For the first time since 1970, Canada's NHL teams have been entirely shut out from the Stanley Cup playoffs, which could throw a heavy hit on viewership north of the border, a new Angus Reid Institute survey suggests.

The absence of Canadian teams means 54 per cent of fans who would usually watch the NHL post-season say they will either watch less playoff hockey this year or won't even watch at all, according to the online survey of 1,522 Canadians conducted from March 28 to 31.

Last week, the Ottawa Senators were the final Canadian team to be mathematically eliminated from contention, ensuring that for a 23rd consecutive year, a Canadian team will not win the Stanley Cup.

For most Canadian teams, specifically Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg and Toronto, the stretch drive has been less about playoffs and more about dropping to the bottom of the standings for the best chance at landing the first overall pick in the 2016 NHL Draft — also known as the Auston Matthews sweepstakes.

According to the survey, not having a Canadian team in the playoffs could have a substantial impact on the number of "diehard fans" who choose to tune in.

Of the 131 people who identified as "diehard fans," 47 per cent said they would watch less playoffs this year. Twelve per cent said they won't watch at all.

"I think that just goes to show how closely diehard hockey fans in this country identify this as Canada's game," Shachi Kurl, executive director for the ARI, told Metro.

Still, almost 200 Canadian players will compete for the Stanley Cup on playoff teams this spring.

The Florida Panthers, with former Canuck Roberto Luongo as their star goalie, and the St. Louis Blues lead the way each with 16 Canadian players on their rosters.

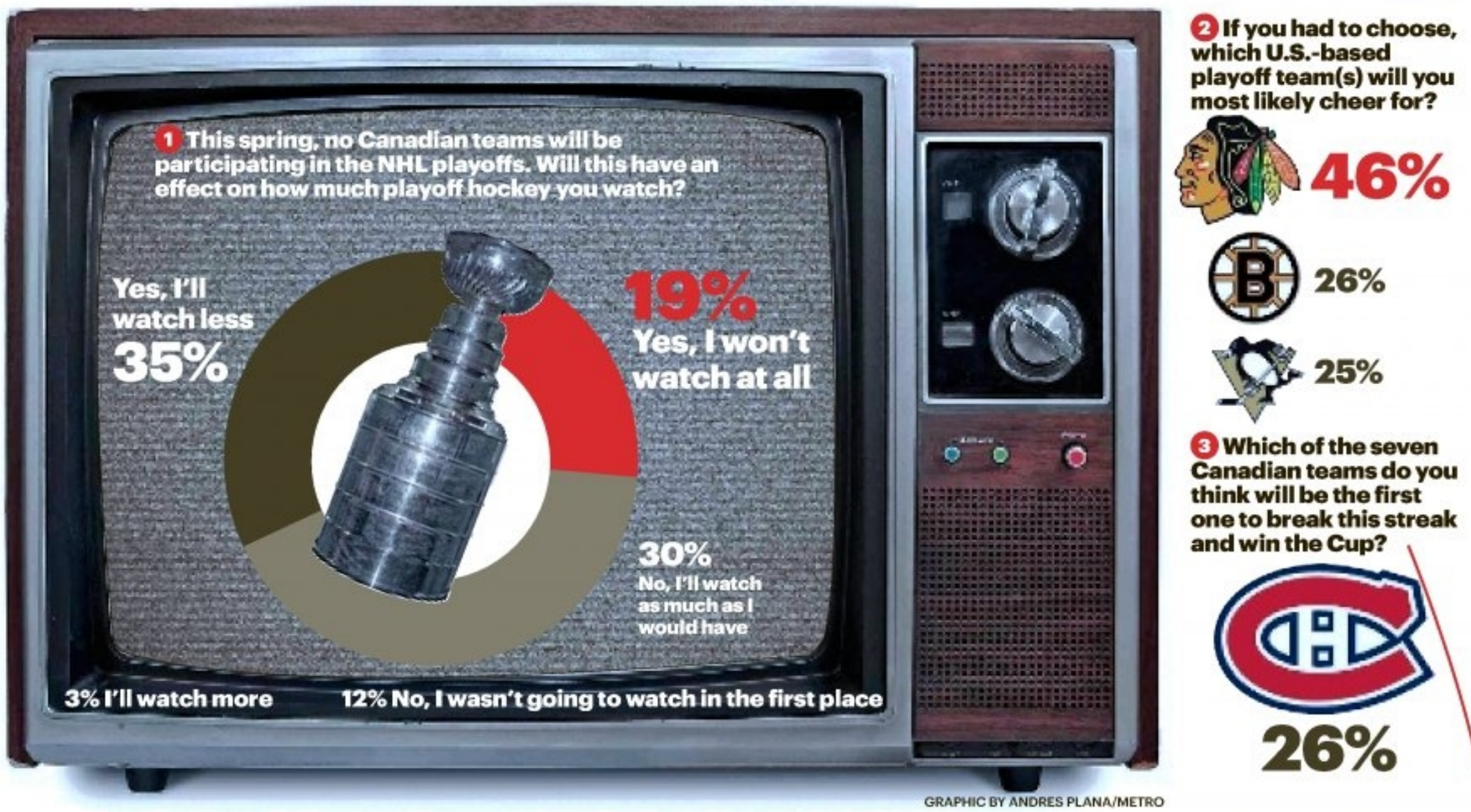
The survey states that 46 per cent of respondents said they will support the Chicago Blackhawks, the defending champs, in the Western Conference. Twenty-six per cent said they would support the Boston Bruins (if they make it) in the East, and 25 per cent said they'd go for Sidney Crosby and the Pittsburgh Penguins.

"Even though we know that there are going to be certain hometown heroes … this is really about local pride and about Canadian pride," said Kurl.

The Montreal Canadiens are the last Canadian team to hoist hockey's coveted silver chalice back in 1993.

The Habs are, in the minds of fans, the favourites to reclaim hockey supremacy, with 26 per cent of respondents saying they would be the next Canadian team to win the Stanley Cup.

Not everyone shares that sense of optimism. Three per cent of respondents say no Canadian team will ever win the Stanley Cup again.



GRAPHIC BY ANDRES PLANA/METRO

PUGILISM

Fighting falling by wayside in NHL

Shawn Thornton used to scan the roster of his team's next opponent for players he might have to fight, but in today's NHL that's no longer necessary.

It's a new reality embraced by the 38-year-old one-time enforcer.

"I'm OK with not having to lose sleep every single night," Thornton said.

Fights have plummeted nearly 50 per cent from only five years ago, according to HockeyFights.com, a stunning reversal for a league that has long contemplated fighting's place in the game.

The NHL is on pace for about 300 fewer fights from the 2010-11 season, a 47 per cent drop, and nearly 400 fewer scraps from the more than 730 of two years before that. In fact, the NHL is likely to see fewer fights this season, about 345, than the 347 during the lockout-shortened 48-game campaign in 2013.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Habs shut down Price

Carey Price felt he was close to a return to the Montreal Canadiens net, but didn't feel quite good enough to play in one of the final two games of the regular season.

So after meeting with team doctors and management, the star goaltender and reigning NHL most valuable player decided his season was over.

"We just ran out of time at the end of the season," said Price, who played in just 12 games this season.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Souza powers Rays' comeback win over Jays

Steven Souza Jr.'s second home run of the game, a go-ahead, three-run drive in the eighth inning, lifted the Tampa Bay Rays over the Toronto Blue Jays 5-3 Wednesday.

Tampa Bay has homered in a team-record 18 consecutive games dating to Sept. 20.

Toronto's Josh Donaldson hit a three-run homer in the third, but left after a seventh-inning at-bat with a strained right calf. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDMONTON THE END OF AN ERA FOR REXALL PLACE
A fan shows his support as he watches the final game at Rexall Place between the Oilers and Canucks in Edmonton on Wednesday. The Oilers closed out the building in style with a 6-2 win. JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada fall to defend champ Swedes

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Koe's squad still sitting atop standings in Switzerland

Flirting with extra ends finally proved costly for Canada at the men's world curling championship in Basel.

Kevin Koe's Calgary rink missed a chance to clinch top spot in the round-robin standings, losing 4-3 to defending champion Sweden in Wednesday's afternoon draw.

Canada pulled out two extra-end wins earlier in the tournament, but this time they came up short. With Sweden holding the hammer in the 11th end, skip Niklas Edin made no mistake with his tapback for the victory.

"You never want to lose, obviously," said Canadian lead Ben Hebert. "We were 8-0 and playing pretty well. We had lots of opportunities, and we just missed them."

> **We let them off the hook.**
> Kevin Koe

Canada's curlers, which include third Marc Kennedy, second Brent Laing and alternate Scott Pfeifer, took the loss in perspective, as they can still clinch first place with a win over Norway in Thursday's early draw.

"No sweat," said Hebert. "We win tomorrow, we're in first place and in the 1-2 (playoff) game with hammer.

"We're going out tonight to have dinner with our families. We're in Switzerland. We're 8-1. It's not the end of the world."

Canada is ahead of a group of five teams tied for second at 6-3, including Norway. Thomas Ulsrud's rink has a chance to start the final day of round-robin play alone in second, but they fell 6-4 to Japan in Wednesday's late draw.

With the win Japan joined the logjam at second, as did Edin with his second victory of the day, a 6-4 victory over South Korea. Denmark is the other team tied for second.

Earlier in the day, Canada beat South Korea 9-2, clinching the win with three points in the seventh end.

The Swedes entered the game on a three-game losing streak, so it was must-win territory for the defending champions.

"We had a couple chances for twos or threes and couldn't convert, and that's typically what happens in games like that. If you don't capitalize on your chances, it usually comes back to bite you, and it did that game," Koe said.

Kevin Koe's Canada boast an 8-1 record at the world curling championship. GEORGIOS KEFALAS/KEYSTONE VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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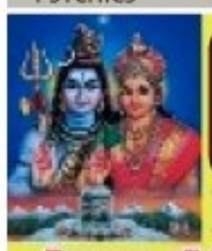

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Anyone interested in submitting an offer to purchase any or all of the lands described above should contact Lexy R. Wong as set out below to obtain an offer package which will contain additional information about the lands and the terms and conditions which the Estate may consider when reviewing the offers.

All offers shall be submitted in writing in the form provided in the offer package and delivered no later than 12:00 p.m. MST (noon) on April 18, 2016 to the following:

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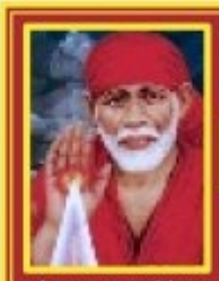

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CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Wolfsburg stuns Madrid in first leg

Wolfsburg battled its way to a shocking 2-0 victory over record 10-time winner Real Madrid in the first leg of their Champions League quarter-final on Wednesday.

Playing in its first quarter-final in the competition, Wolfsburg outmuscled and outran the Spanish giant to give itself a clear chance of advancing after next week's second leg at the Bernabeu.

"We are in a good position, we can always score a goal," Wolfsburg's coach Dieter Hecking said.

Ricardo Rodriguez converted a penalty in the 18th minute and Maximilian Arnold added the second in the 25th as the home side used counter-attacks to devastating effect.

> **We still have 90 minutes at home, we have to stay calm.**
> Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane

Cristiano Ronaldo had a goal disallowed for offside in the second minute and the Madrid star had little chance of increasing his competition-high tally of 13 goals after that.

In Wednesday's other match, Paris Saint-German drew 2-2 with Manchester City at home. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

ACL injury ruins Canadian goalkeeper's Rio plans

Canadian goalkeeper Erin McLeod has confirmed her knee injury will keep her out of the Summer Olympics.

McLeod injured her anterior cruciate ligament March 23 playing for her Swedish club soccer team.

Canada has named goalkeepers Stephanie Labbe and Sabrina D'Angelo on its 19-woman roster for Monday's friendly against the Netherlands in Eindhoven. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Venus Williams breezes into 3rd round of Volvo Car Open

Venus Williams used her powerhouse serves and crisp groundstrokes for a 6-4, 6-2 victory over fellow American Alison Riske at the Volvo Car Open on Wednesday.

The third-seeded Williams, a seven-time Grand Slam champion, is going for her 50th WTA title. The 35-year-old won the final two games without dropping a point. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RECIPE Black Bean & Tuna Wrap

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This protein-packed wrap makes an easy, healthy dinner.

Ready in
Prep time: 30 minutes
Total time: 35 minutes

Ingredients
- 1 x 19 oz. can of black beans, drained
- 1 x 5 oz. can of tuna
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh tomato
- 1/2 cup chopped red pepper
- 1/4 cup finely chopped red onion
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 3 Tbsps lime juice
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1/4 cup chopped cilantro
- 2 handfuls of chopped lettuce, washed and dried well
- 1/2 an avocado, sliced
- 4 tortilla wraps

Directions

1. In a large bowl, toss together beans, tuna, onions, peppers, oil, lime juice and salt and pepper. Cover and place in the fridge for half an hour or overnight for the flavours to combine and develop.

2. When you're ready to assemble your wraps take your bowl out of the fridge, add your chopped cilantro and stir.

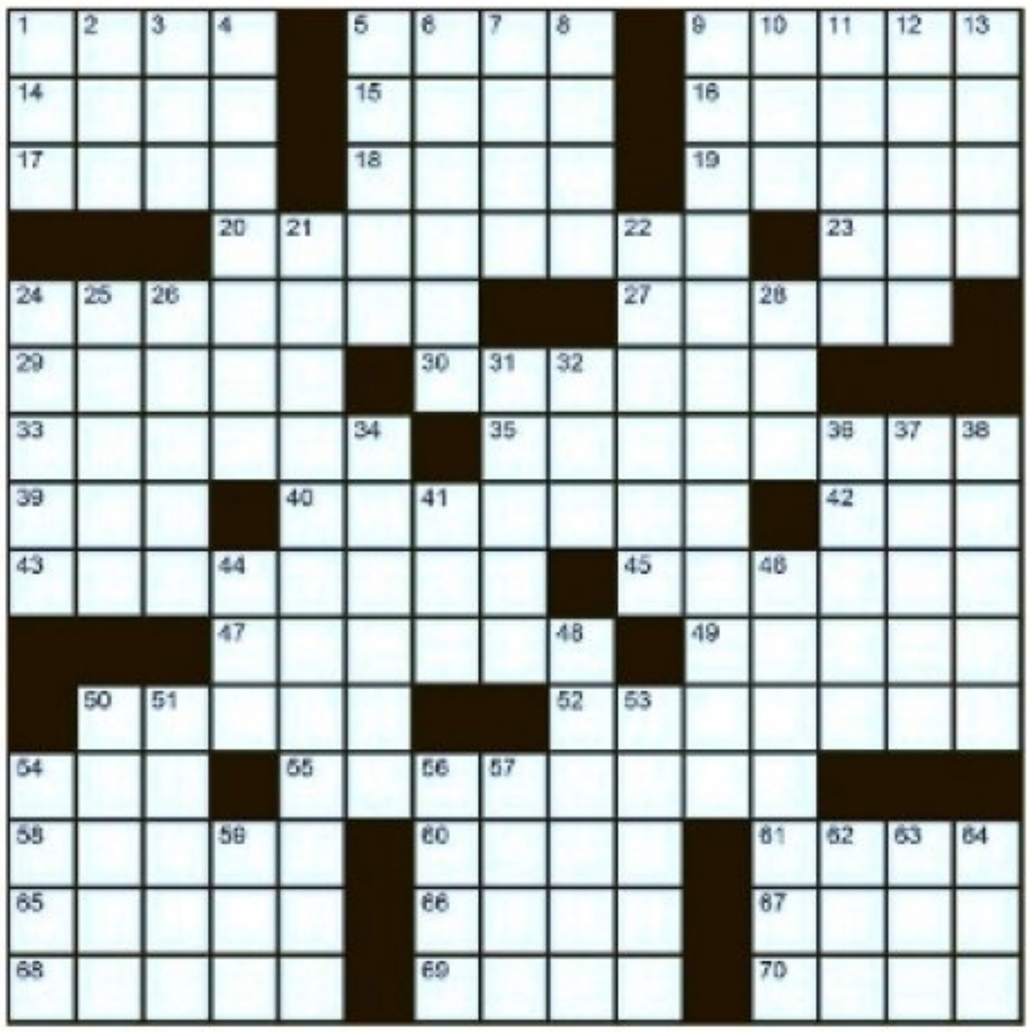
3. Lay your tortillas out on your work surface.

4. Place your lettuce down first (this will keep your tortilla from getting soggy), then scoop the tuna on top, and add a few slices of avocado. Make a rectangle of filling in the middle of your wrap. Pull one side of your wrap over the filling and tuck it in snugly. Now fold over both ends of the wrap. Keep rolling it over until it's closed. Slice in half and serve.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Wooden wedge
5. Sea lettuce
9. "What am I, chopped _?"
14. Verdi opera
15. Sci. class
16. Dispatch boat
17. Ringing reverberation
18. Mini medians
19. Biker role in #61-Across
20. 11:00pm, for instance: 2 wds.
23. Social pages word
24. Fab Four, for one
27. Canada _ (CBC's annual books competition)
29. Regular
30. Woodstock salutes
33. Of the body's major artery
35. Rules of conduct
39. Shiba _ (Dog breed of Japan)
40. Pamplona's locale in northern Spain
42. Muesli tidbit
43. Drop in rank
45. Sacred place
47. Gilligan's boat, S.S. _
49. Ancient Greek colony
50. Joe of "JFK" (1991)
52. The _ (Novel by #9-Down which is the 2016 winner of #27-Across)
54. Abitibi article
55. 1934: Montreal Neurological Institute founder, Dr. Wilder _ (b.1891 - d.1976)
58. Express
60. Sports car, _ Romeo
61. "_ Rider" (1969)
65. Latin for 'I believe'
66. Enter: 2 wds.
67. _ & The Bunnymen
68. Russian ballet company
69. Hobbyist's purchases
70. Actor, Oliver _

DOWN
1. Maple's meal
2. "Speed it up, stallion!"
3. US 'Gem State', briefly
4. Shopping centre regular's nickname
5. Decrease
6. It keeps a censor ready with the bleep button: 2 wds.
7. Van _, Vincent
8. Besides
9. Newmarket, Ontario born author (More at #27-Across and #52-Across): 2 wds.
10. Climber of the quoins
11. Choice dish
12. Rob of "90210"
13. Automatic
21. Nfld., for one: 2 wds.
22. Cheering-on people
24. Randy of "The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz" (1974)
25. "Can you give _ _ moment, please?" (Making-a-decision couple's request)
26. Latin for 'gold'
28. Peer Gynt's mother
31. Actors Joe or Vincent
32. Odd, briefly
34. Ms. Kazan of "My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2" (2016)
36. Fist, in France
37. Actress Ms. Raymonde
38. Bargain
41. "_ Ryan's Express" (1965) starring Frank Sinatra
44. Mantric syllables
46. Antlered creature of European woodlands: 2 wds.
48. Nintendo's getting-in-shape offering, _ _ Plus
50. Science dish
51. 'Poly' add-on (Synthetic fabric)
53. Angles
54. Good fortune
56. Harps
57. Sight-of-ice in The Arctic
59. Japan's capital's old name
62. Expert
63. "_-Devil" (1989)
64. Greeted, Rocky-style

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Today the only New Moon in your sign all year is taking place. That's why this is the best day to take a realistic look in the mirror to see how you can improve your image.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
A hidden epiphany or a sudden idea likely will occur to you today. Listen to what it is, because it might help you.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
This is the only New Moon all year regarding friendships for you. Are you happy with your friendships? Do your friends care about your welfare? Think about this.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
This is perhaps the best day of the year to think about your life direction. Are you headed in the direction you want to go? Are your goals really your goals?

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
What further training can you get to improve your job? What further travel and education might enrich your life? Think about this today.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Today's New Moon urges you to study your debt and anything that has to do with shared property. Figure out what you owe and what you own, because information is power.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Today is the only New Moon that is opposite your sign all year. This means it's the best day of the year to think how you can improve your partnerships and close friendships.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Today's New Moon is an opportunity to think about how you can be more efficient at work. It's also the perfect time to think about how you can improve your health.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
How well do you balance play and work in your life? It's crazy to work so hard that you never enjoy life. "What's it all about, Alfie?"

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The New Moon today is your chance to make resolutions about how to improve your home, as well as how to improve your relationship with family members. Ideas?

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Communication with others is important because we are social creatures. Do you listen as well as speak? How can you be a better communicator?

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Today's New Moon encourages you to think about how you handle your money and your possessions. What kind of report card would you give yourself?

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

			5		8			
			9		7			
9		8				6		3
4	8						7	2
				4				
7	2						1	9
1		2				5		7
			2		3			
			8		1			

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